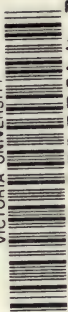


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HER STORY





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HER STORY.

HISTORY OF THE

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE

EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.

BY MRS. H. BENNETT.



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EMMANUEL

AUTHORIZED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE
EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Woman's Missionary Society
Presents within
A record of its work,
The lost to win.

MRS. H. BENNETT.

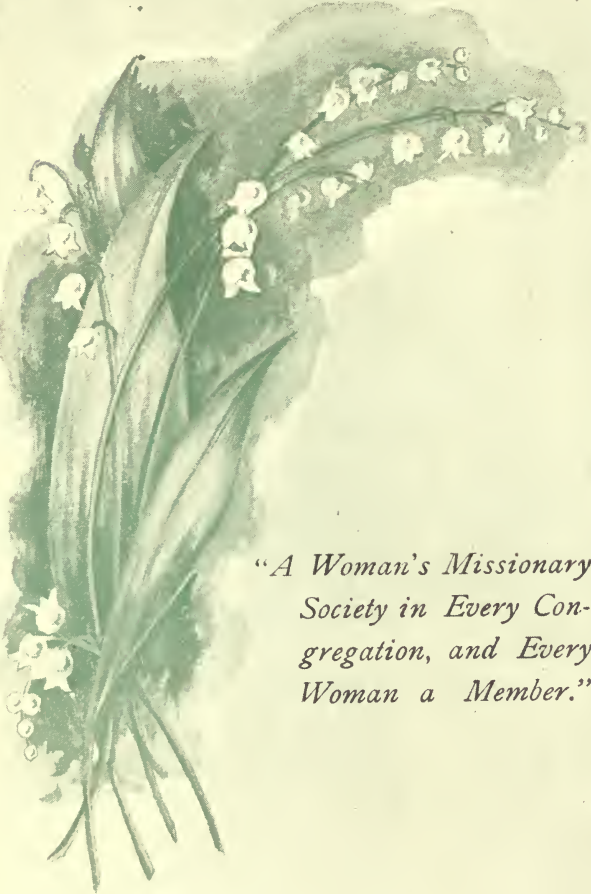
OUR EMBLEM.



By MRS. H. BENNETT.



Lily of fragrance,
With beauty replete,
Emblem of all that
Is holy and sweet.
Dwelling so lowly,
So close where we tread,
Cheerily lifting your
Dear, dainty head,
Telling us all of
The great Father's care,
Of the One who clothes
Even the lilies so fair.
Thus humbly and quietly
Doing God's will,
Our Society's mission
Is to fulfill
All the glad message
That from Christ's lips fell
To the women who loved Him,
"Go quickly and tell."



*"A Woman's Missionary
Society in Every Con-
gregation, and Every
Woman a Member."*

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INTRODUCTION.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association is not only an organization, but a movement; not a mere machine but a living force in our Church. Like all such movements it had a small and feeble beginning, and though exceedingly modest, encountered stout prejudices and opposition from the start. It grew "under a weight," but it grew. It was too sturdy to be disheartened, too hardy to be frozen out, and too full of vitality to die. Slowly but surely it has made a place and a name for itself among us. It has been like the kingdom of God itself, of which it is an agency. Beginning from the smallest of seeds, it has spread forth its Branches into distant portions of the world, and made its influence felt throughout the whole Church.

As its aims and spirit were better understood and the result of its work became apparent, in an increased interest in missions, an awakened conscience, a broadening intelligence on this greatest of all enterprises, as well as in actual contributions to our missionary treasury, this new child of the Church has crept closely into her affections and confidence, and to-day the co-operation of this Society is welcomed and valued as never before.

One of the most suggestive results of the mighty missionary upheaval of the nineteenth century has been the awakening of Christian womanhood to the needs of a dying world. Woman, who was "first in the transgression" is also coming to be first in evangelization and rescue. In the Zenanas of India, the wretched hovels of China and Japan, the harems of Moslem lands and the crude huts of the Dark Continent, woman's deft fingers, gentle tact and loving

grace, have done pioneer work in carrying the Cross into the dark corners of the earth. Our Evangelical sisterhood, as noble and Christ-like and consecrated as any, have also heard the call, and are not a whit behind their sisters of other churches in heeding this call to service. The love of Christ constraineth them. By their organization and its blessed activities they have shown the Church what can be done by united and well-directed effort in the study of missions, in awakening a missionary conscience and in systematic giving.

The thrilling and suggestive story of the rise of this Society, its struggle for recognition, the patient labor, quiet planning, and importunate praying of its promoters, the steady progress and success of their cause, is beautifully told in the following pages in the graphic style of one of their own best and most facile writers, Mrs. H. Bennett. It was with her a labor of love, involving patient research and much precious time. But we believe the work will be richly rewarded in blessing to others, and this book will become a valuable part of our denominational literature. It ought to have an extensive circle of readers.

Samuel P. Spreng.

William Horn.

HER STORY.

CHAPTER I.

HOLY ANCESTRY.

“I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors.”—Lev. 26: 45.

There are some fortunate people who can trace their family history back to noted statesmen and famous warriors. To know that one's forefathers have made their mark in the world's history is a desirable legacy.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association is not without its honored ancestry. Away back in 1839 when woman's work in the home was not, as now, lightened by “many inventions,” when our people proved the truth of Paul's words, “They that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution,” certain devout women of the East Pennsylvania Conference, residing in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., members of the Evangelical Association, caught the missionary spirit and earnestly desired to help the brethren raise money for missions. The pastor, learning of their pent-up zeal, was quick to see the advantage of enlisting so powerful a force in mission work and encouraged them to organize at once. Thus our very first Woman's Missionary Society came into existence, November 11, 1839, the same year in which the saintly John Seybert was made bishop of our Church. A bishop who during the first few months of office “was known to weep almost constantly” because he deemed himself so unfit for the position. A Church watered by such tears must surely thrive.

That ancestral woman's meeting was opened by the pastor with song and prayer, and sixty members were enrolled at the first session, while others who could not be present, sent in their names for membership. What does the reader think of that, as a "forward movement" among women? Those old-time, conservative sisters were certainly not simply seeking popularity; they had an intense longing for the world's salvation and were anxious to do their utmost to that end.

We are fortunate in having a list of their officers, as follows:

President, Mrs. Catharine Grafenstein.

Vice-President, A. Maria Walter.

Second Vice-President, Catharine Kiser.

Secretary, Caroline Vogelbach.

Treasurer, Margaret Kraker.

Special Committee, to work with officers, Catharine Bixenstein and Margaret Arnsworth.

The good sisters were expected to mortify their pride and help the cause by bringing offerings of "finger-rings, earrings, pins of gold and silver and other valuables" to be laid on the altar and sold. They laid up treasure in heaven, and long ago began to realize the high rate of interest God pays on loans in His favor. Surely we may take a pardonable pride in such an ancestry.

The society met every week at the homes of the members for work, and while thus engaged with their sewing one would read aloud from the Scriptures or from some missionary literature. They must have formed a pleasing picture.

One of the articles in their constitution was, that an annual report of the society be sent to their conference.

In answer to a note of inquiry a letter was received, by Rev. Charles Hammer, May 14, 1883, from Mrs. Bixentein, then the only living member of that first busy band of missionary women. Here are two extracts: "I am determined to live a consecrated life every day until God calls me home."

“I regret that I can not give the information asked, for the dear sisters have all gone home.”

Blessed reunion in the Fatherland. Some day it may be our happy lot to sit down in their midst and listen to the story of their hopes and fears, their trials and triumphs.

Finally through lack of general organization these sisters drifted into local aid societies and took up other lines of Christian work, but never lost the missionary spirit.

True to His promise, God remembered the covenant of His loved ones and just forty-one years later our modern Woman's Missionary Society was formed. Perhaps those mothers in Israel are now watching our onward march, and are even among those “ministering spirits” sent forth to cheer us on our way.

“Who knows but in stress of the conflict
They haste to the fore.”

CHAPTER II.

SACRED INHERITANCE.

“He shall choose our inheritance for us.”—Psa. 47: 4.

Happy indeed are those who in the morning of life make the decision “to entertain the kingdom of Christ” their own.

Some years ago there lived in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, a tall dark-eyed girl who accepted, as her inheritance, a loving father's devotion to missions. Unusual abilities, well cultivated, she laid at the feet of her Lord.

This young girl, Miss Ella J. Yost, now Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer (daughter of Rev. Wm. Yost, Treasurer of the Parent Missionary Society), led a small band of devoted women, members of Calvary Evangelical Church, corner of Perry street and Woodland avenue, Cleveland, who felt that they could not fulfill all God's will for them without holding forth a helping hand to the regions beyond. This holy flame was fanned by the enthusiasm which swept through the Church when our first missionaries were sent to Japan.

When war clouds settled darkly over our fair land, women did not go calmly on their way leaving all thought and care for the comfort of our armies to their countrymen. No! no, their hearts were thrilled, and their hands were busy caring for our brave defenders. They even held special and separate meetings to promote those sacred interests. Then when men and women were sent forth by our own denomination to do battle for the King of kings, is it any wonder that women of the Church wanted some special, definite part in the service?

May 23, 1878, Cleveland women, through the “Evangelical Messenger,” presented the subject to the women of



MRS. E. M. SPRENG,
President.

the Church, who gladly responded, and, October, 1878, a petition was sent to our General Board of Missions, asking permission to organize a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, whereupon the Honorable Board adopted the following minute:

“With great interest we have heard the petition of our sisters, requesting the Board of Missions to make provision for the organization of a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, evincing, as it does, a noble, philanthropic spirit, and a deep and commendable interest in the welfare and salvation of the heathen world, and also a fervent desire that our Church should do its utmost in the endeavor to spread the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and thus fulfill the glorious mission entrusted to it by the great Head of the Church; but we cannot comply with their request for the following reasons:

(1) The interest of the entire Church missionary work does not seem to allow such an organization in the interest of one branch of the same. We do not desire that our sisters shall be less interested in the success of our work in Japan, but think their co-operation should be continued with equal fervency and energy in our entire missionary operations.

(2) We can see no necessity for organizing such a society in our Church, in order to give our sisters an adequate opportunity to labor individually and collectively in the interest of our foreign and home missions, as our excellent missionary arrangements do afford ample opportunities to all our members to pray, give and work in this direction. And we are glad to know that many of our sisters improve these opportunities, and thus help in the advancement of this cause. We would respectfully request such sisters to continue in this good work, and urge all to do their utmost, that the efficiency of the missionary society may be increased, and that many souls may be saved.”

Those well-meaning brethren of the Board could say with two good men of old, “Certain women of our com-

pany made us astonished." Luke 24: 22. Those women of that olden time could well afford to be patient with the incredulity of their brethren, knowing that back of their word was the risen Christ, and these women of a later day who were just as anxious to spread the glad tidings, met the Board's refusal to grant their urgent request in the same kindly spirit. They saw the Easter dawn of a "forward movement" and could patiently wait and work until other eyes were open to its light.

While these persistent Cleveland women are busy planning another campaign, let us shift our position and take another view in Ohio.

We find a fair haired girl, known as Miss Minerva Strawman, of Lindsey, Ohio, now Mrs. E. M. Spreng, diligently pursuing her studies in an academy in Fostoria, Ohio. She, too, had allowed God to choose an inheritance for her. Her father, Rev. Daniel Strawman, was an active worker in the parent Missionary Society and already his mantle was falling on the daughter's slender shoulders.

One day the Preceptress of the Academy, Mrs. G. P. Macklin, asked Miss Strawman to share with her the pleasures of a missionary tea given by the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ. Miss Strawman then, as now, always on the alert to catch the best ideas of Christian living, gladly accepted the invitation, and was delighted with all she saw and heard. Little did those women think that the young guest at their table that evening would, in a few short years, stand at the head of a Woman's Mission Board belonging to a sister denomination. "Sow in the morn thy seed, at eve hold not thy hand."

Miss Strawman went back to her father's home with this question ringing through her soul, "Why cannot we women of Lindsey Church have such an organization?" Then she came to the conclusion which has helped solve many difficult questions in her life, "I'll ask father about it." Rev. D. Strawman was at that time a member of the Board of Missions, and as his vivacious young daughter

came with her question, he said: "Why Minerva, in order to organize a society you will have to send a petition to the Board of Missions." She was simply planning for a little society, in her own home church, and the idea of an inexperienced girl sending a petition to that august Board had rather a chilling effect on our ardent young missionary. But like the French drummer boy who had never learned to beat retreat, she rallied her forces and the next we hear she was on a "still hunt" for some one who could and would write a petition. After some extremely discouraging experiences she was led to Rev. E. Wengerd, her pastor, and memory now reveals the kindly face of one who could not turn away from a tried and perplexed soul without giving help. And so he, with the assistance of Rev. Geo. Schneider, under the supervision of Miss Strawman, wrote the historic petition which was signed by some fifty women of the Lindsey Evangelical Church, and was sent to the Board of Missions October, 1880.

Meanwhile the Master had taken the bread of woman's opportunity, had blessed and broken it to the brethren, and their eyes were opened, with the following result:

"Resolved, That we observe this movement among our sisters with pleasure, and heartily wish that they may reach the end in view, viz.: the more effectual support of the missionary cause.

"Resolved, That we advise and request all our preachers to establish auxiliary societies wherever practicable, in our classes and congregations. These societies may, as heretofore, be common societies consisting of members of both sexes, or separate, male and female societies, as the preacher-in-charge may deem most advantageous. These societies should, however, in all cases, be under the supervision of the preacher who has charge of the field of labor."

In the "Evangelical Messenger" of September 14, 1880, a stirring appeal to the women of our Church was made by Miss Strawman. No doubt the practical statements therein, aided in bringing a favorable response from the Board. We quote a few extracts:

“Our General Missionary Society is doing a grand and noble work, but it is in debt and that cripples its efforts to some extent, and we feel it our duty in some way to help relieve it, and to aid in prosecuting the glorious work which the Society has begun.”

Notice in this vigorous descendant a similar spirit to that which inspired the Evangelical women of 1839, namely, a desire to help the Parent Board out of debt, and we rejoice that in the month of October, 1899, this glorious desire was realized. While the Woman's Missionary Society does not seek the praise of men for its efforts, still we point with pleasure to the glowing tribute paid to our Society by Bishop Thomas Bowman, at the quadrennial meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society held in Howell, Michigan, in 1899. He said, “Our Church will average this year for missions about two dollars per member, and much of this is due to the influence of the Woman's Missionary Society in the home and in the Church.”

Miss Strawman also said in that early appeal, “Our purpose would be to unite the efforts of the women to raise funds for the support of heathen missions. To get women and children interested in the missionary cause, so that the funds collected may be given in the right spirit and with a willing mind. If we want to have our money prosper it must be given in the right spirit and not collected by church fairs, festivals, etc.

“Second, To unite the earnest prayers of the women of our Association in behalf of the missionary cause.

“Third, To make it an object to visit the sick. Many despondent Christians can be furthered on in the Divine life by having Christian women visit them in their sickness, and read from the Word of God to them, and pray with them.

“Fourth, To speak to the unconverted. A kind word may be the means of helping them into the fold. Why then be sparing of kind words.”



MRS. G. W. SINDLINGER,
Vice-President

She closed by saying, "And now, dear sisters, a wide field for doing good opens before us. Let us bestir ourselves, unite our efforts, and rally around the cross. When you have read this do not lay it aside and say, 'It is a good work, I hope the sisters will take it up,' but go to work yourselves, ask counsel and help from the bishops, presiding elders and pastors, for their sympathies are with every good word and work, and we trust our worthy bishops and the Board of the General Missionary Society will encourage us, and give sufficient advice, or devise some plan for us, that we may do something in this glorious cause."

An editorial of the same issue said, "This is a work in which all the talent of the Association should be enlisted. Our women are just as zealous as our men, if not more so, and we hail it as an auspicious omen that a voice of this kind comes from a sister who speaks for her class and asks to have the noble privilege to help. May we soon see many auxiliaries of this kind. The Lord has a blessing in store for such. Romanism employs its women to a large extent, and why should not we, who believe we have far nobler work for them."

CHAPTER III.

THE BEGINNING.

“At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am now come to shew thee, for thou art greatly beloved.”—Dan. 9: 23.

We believe this beautiful message from God to Daniel can also be applied to the Woman’s Missionary Society. God had lovingly listened to the “beginning of their supplications” and had now come forth to give them “skill and understanding.”

Organization was now in order. In the afternoon of October 27, 1880, immediately after the publication of the action of the Board, granting permission to organize Woman’s Missionary Societies, the women of Lindsey, Ohio, were organized, and in the evening of that same day the society in South Chicago, Illinois, was effected. February 9, 1881, the third society was organized at Calvary Church, corner of Woodland avenue and Perry street, Cleveland, Ohio.

This was followed directly by a society in Naperville, Illinois. From the beginning, the Cleveland society was looking forward to a general organization. In order that there might be unity of purpose and action, and harmony in methods and plans, they appointed a committee, of which Miss Ella Yost was a member, to draft and publish a constitution for the use of societies. There lies before us now a faded copy of that constitution, and we are touched as we think of the earnest prayers and high hopes that went into each line of that precious document. The passing years have brought changes in our constitution, and also in the lives of those who were so deeply interested in

it. "Some are married, some are dead," but the loving Father who guided those devoted women "is the same yesterday, to-day and forever." What a comforting truth!

We notice that the article, "How to Organize a Society," in our constitution for 1900, is the same, word for word, as that in the original constitution.

From the very first the "Evangelical Messenger" and "Christliche Botschafter" were staunch friends and supporters of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Many of our Church officials gave great encouragement. One wrote thus in regard to our Society: "The Presbyterian Church, South, with a few thousand more members than our own Church, raised \$48,485.98 for foreign missions in 1880. Of this 211 ladies' missionary associations of this Church furnished \$10,031.36. I am sure the sisters of our blessed Evangelical Association could do as well if they were properly organized. Our foreign work could be carried financially by our women, if they had a fair opportunity and were properly encouraged. Dear brethren in the ministry, organize the women of your charge to assist in raising funds for mission purposes and spreading missionary intelligence through the Church."

April 26, 1881, there appeared in the "Evangelical Messenger" the following enthusiastic letter from Dresden, Saxony, written by Rev. G. Heinmiller, then a missionary, now editor of the "Christliche Botschafter":

"Esteemed Editor:—I feel just like shouting 'Rah for the Evangelical women of Lindsey, Cleveland and Chicago! We hope before the first year of this decade shall have died away a large number of auxiliary missionary societies will be organized by the women of our Church. Just step out now, ladies, and show us what can be done. . . . We shall certainly give you the best chances to reach down deeply into the pockets of—well, I don't care whose pockets, just so you get the eagles and greenbacks for the missionary cause. . . . Lindsey, Cleveland and Chicago is a beautiful trio and will always stand forth conspicuously in the history

of the Woman's Missionary Societies A palm belongs to each. . . . Our American ladies will not blame me for speaking a word in behalf of our German sisters on this side of the Atlantic. Woman's societies in fact, are not a new thing in Germany. Almost every charge, as far as my acquaintance goes, has such a society. The sisters belonging to these societies devote one evening each week to work for the missionary cause. And, indeed, handsome sums for the blessed cause have been gathered in this way. True, these societies may not be so constituted as those organized lately on American soil, but they exist in fact. . . I thought it could not harm Gretchen and Hannchen, and Nanele and Mariele and Minale, if they were permitted to reap just a little of the good, sweet words lavished upon you at present. Could I not induce one of your scribes to direct one of your 'fraternal' doves across the Atlantic, loaded with kind greetings to your German sisters?"

Another writer said, "Those who discourage woman's work at home are standing in the way of our progress and prosperity as a Church."

During the year 1882 the editors of our Church papers invited all women of our Church to talk over the work through their papers, and urged a general organization. We quote one answer. "It seems to me that a Woman's Missionary Society is the great need of our Church to-day, and I for one will pledge myself to work and pray until the need has been supplied."

There were many other letters which called forth this comment from the "Missionary Review," "The women of the Evangelical Association are evidently in earnest to organize for foreign mission work. The communications in the 'Messenger' from the sisters glow with inspiration, and show a fixed purpose to help on the organization. The cause is worthy. Fear no excess of enthusiasm originating in love to Christ and souls."

The Cleveland society during its first year paid into the

missionary treasury \$102.15. The Lindsey society followed closely with the sum of \$87.48 for the same year.

But increased collections were not the only advantage derived from this new society. Bright women sprang up here and there through the land, who found that with the opportunity came the power to speak for Christ by tongue and pen. We clip the following from the record of the first public meeting of the Naperville society:

“The service was entirely in the hands of the women, and was conducted by them exclusively. The voice of man was not heard in the assembly.” Of course it would be a lamentable state of affairs to lose the masculine voice entirely, but the voice of woman gives a pleasing variety.

Reporter, writing for the Circleville society, at this time, said, “Of course there are some here, as nearly everywhere, who think there is enough to do at home, and that we have to look after the heathen in our own community. But that can be done anyway, without any extra outlay of money. Besides there are no heathen here. The pastor pledged himself that if any one knew of a family within reaching distance that had never heard the Gospel, or never had an opportunity to hear it, that he would go at once and preach to them the Gospel, without money and without price.” We think that a very good answer to the “heathen at home” objectors.

Although much had been accomplished up to this time, many leading women felt that the work was not progressing as rapidly as seemed desirable; consequently, at the regular monthly meeting of the society at Cleveland, Ohio, January, 1883, it was decided to appoint a corresponding secretary, who should communicate with other leading women throughout the Church, thus giving encouragement and arousing interest in the Woman’s Missionary Society. Mrs. W. H. Hammer was chosen for the position, and entered the new field at once. She brought to the work a longing love for souls, a well-trained mind and a gifted pen, through which enthusiasm was rapidly created and opposi-

tion disarmed. One day, after reading one of her beautiful letters to societies, we ventured to express something of our admiration for her work. The simple, quiet answer was, "I went from my knees to my desk, otherwise I could not have done it." Ah, that is the secret of our Woman's Missionary Society; the leaders were adept "knee-workers."

Mrs. Hammer is another who was blessed with a sacred inheritance, her father, Rev. Wm. H. Pfeiffer, of the Ohio Conference, being a very successful soul-winner. As we turn over the pages of history we are more and more constrained to emphatically contradict the statement that "minister's children are more than others inclined to evil." The Church of to-day would suffer incalculable loss if the sons and daughters of preachers were stricken from among its active workers.

The first letter from the Corresponding Secretary was sent out, January 16, 1883, and in a short time forty new societies were organized, representing eleven annual conferences. Many copies of the constitution were sent out, and a special letter of appeal was forwarded to twenty of the conferences in annual session. The letter was read before twelve of these and the Woman's Missionary Society received great encouragement from many of the conferences. We quote from the reports of two. The proceedings of the Pittsburg Conference, 1883, refer to the Woman's Missionary Society as "possibly the most efficient missionary enterprise in the Church."

"The dozen small Woman's Missionary Societies of the Ohio Conference have, in addition to all their other good work, raised an amount of money for the missionary cause equal to more than one-fifteenth of the total amount reported for the entire conference district of over 7,700 members."—*Ohio Conference Minutes, 1883.*

Now, in the light of this strong testimony we turn back to 1878 and read again the answer to the first petition for a Woman's Missionary Society, and we are reminded of the small boy who, when asked what he was doing, replied, "Taking the windows out of grandma's glasses so she can see better."

CHAPTER IV.

SEEKING WISDOM.

“That which I see not, teach thou me.”—Job 34: 32. |

Humility and a teachable spirit have always characterized our Woman's Missionary Society. It takes strong Christian courage to keep a high ideal constantly in view, and with all the obstacles the promoters had to meet, sometimes they may have wandered into the “castle of Giant Despair,” but through the little key of prayer were soon out and on their way again, more determined than ever in the pursuit of Divine wisdom.

* Our women had now come to the time when they found that their future existence and usefulness as a society demanded a general organization, embracing the whole Church. They felt that their record thus far gave them the right to ask this privilege of General Conference. Thus a convention was called to meet in Calvary Church, Perry street, Cleveland, Ohio, June 3, 1883. Fifteen societies sent delegates, and others, individuals and societies, that could not be thus represented, sent letters, breathing intense sympathy and prayer for the work. An interesting program was enthusiastically observed. At this convention the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That we send a letter of appeal to the next General Conference to give us a place in authorized Church work, and grant us permission to organize a Woman's Board of Missions for home and foreign work; and make the offerings of the Woman's Missionary Society an extra gift to the missionary cause, which is not intended, in any way whatever, to take the place of our annual contributions to the general missionary work; that we wish the organization to become auxiliary to the parent society, and that it be under the supervision of those in authority.”

Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer and Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. H. C. Smith, of Naperville, Illinois, Miss Minerva Strawman, of Lindsey, Ohio; Mrs. W. C. Kantner, of Terre Hill, Pa., and Mrs. S. P. Spreng, of Circleville, Ohio, were appointed to prepare the proposed appeal.

The shadow of death fell over the Sabbath services of this convention when the news came over the wires that Dr. Kreckler, a faithful missionary of our Church in Japan, had laid his "armor by" and crossed the river, leaving a shadow here, but entering eternal sunshine beyond.

Another resolution, passed by this convention, was the following:

"Resolved, That all the women of the Evangelical Association be requested to observe the hour from one to two o'clock, each day, in making earnest supplication for the success of the Woman's Missionary movement in the Church."

The delegates returned to their home duties feeling that the Woman's Missionary Society outlook was growing brighter.

About this time a Woman's Work Department was opened in the "Evangelical Messenger," bearing the Woman's Missionary Society motto as a heading, beneath which appeared from week to week very helpful articles on woman's work. After a time the Editor thought best to discontinue this "corner," but received such a broadside of remonstrating letters from women who depended largely on this department for help, that he very gladly re-opened it. Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer wrote thus, in regard to woman's work: "Whether it be in the busy throng fighting the battles of the Lord, or in the home circle learning lessons of patience and love, and guiding the little feet in the heavenward way, it will still be woman's work."

General Conference met in October, 1883, at Allentown, Pa. It was here and now that the Board of Missions appointed Miss Ada B. Johnson missionary to Japan. Miss Johnson was a leading spirit in the Woman's Missionary



MISS AMANDA E. RICKERT,
Recording Secretary.

Society of Calvary Church, Cleveland. She held a warm place in many hearts, and her going forth to this new work intensified the missionary spirit among our women. She served the Church as missionary in Japan eight years.

Our petition came before the conference in due time and while this august body saw only lines traced by a woman's hand, the brethren must have felt on their hearts the scarred hand of woman's best Friend, and the power of many humble, holy prayers, for they took the following action:

"Whereas, The women of our Church have, through a committee, appointed by the woman's convention, held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 4, 1883, presented a petition to this Conference, asking permission to organize a Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association for the purpose of aiding the missionary enterprises of the Evangelical Association by extra funds, efforts and prayers, and to disseminate missionary intelligence and cultivate a missionary spirit among the Christian women and children at home; and

"Whereas, They declare that these extra funds are not in anyway whatever to take the place of the annual contributions to the general missionary work; therefore

Resolved, (1) That permission to organize such a society is hereby granted, under the following conditions:

(a) That all local woman's societies shall be under the supervision of the preacher-in-charge where such societies shall be, or are already organized.

(b) That the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association shall be auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, and under the supervision of the Board of Missions; and shall annually submit their proceedings to said Board for examination and approval.

(2) That the organization of this Society, and all matters appertaining thereunto, be referred to the petitioners and the Board of Missions."

Great responsibility now rested upon the committee of seven petitioners. They were to co-operate with the Board of Missions in forming the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association. They prepared what they considered a suitable constitution and presented it to the Executive Committee of the Board for approval. But again the familiar word "wait" loomed up in the Woman's Missionary Society's pathway. Thus several months slipped by and then these patient petitioners were informed that nothing could be done until the next annual meeting of the Board, as the organization of a Woman's Missionary Society was a matter of such vast importance that the Executive Committee could not undertake the responsibility of approval. A whole year of waiting seemed a long while to those energetic, disappointed women, but they must have been somewhat comforted by the brotherly acknowledgment that their work was of such "vast importance." And now the one with a "writers' ink-horn by her side," found her hands full. Hundreds of letters in both German and English were sent throughout the conferences urging forward the work.

This indefatigable corresponding secretary might have employed her spare time making fancy work to decorate her own loved home; but she chose rather to spend it seeking rare gems for her Saviour's crown. The letters thus sent out met with a wider reception than formerly, as the Society was now under the seal of General Conference. But the final struggle for complete organization was yet to be met.

CHAPTER V.

"IN GOD'S NAME FORWARD."

"Whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well.

"Because that for His name's sake they went forth.

"Wherefore we ought to receive such that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth."—III. John 6: 7, 8.

Such seemed to be the Divine message received, and the conclusion reached in regard to the Woman's Missionary Society, by the Board of Missions in session at Salem Church, Cleveland, Ohio, October, 1884.

Although for a time they struggled in the "slough of indecision" and discussion, finally, like Bunyan's pilgrim, they climbed safely out on the right side. And we think we know one good reason for this result: Missionary women had learned the power of combined prayer and effort, and so had planned and called a convention of delegates, for organization, from the local Woman's Missionary Societies, to meet in Cleveland, Ohio, on the same date that the Board of Missions would be in session.

In the call for this convention the following urgent appeal was sent out by the Corresponding Secretary:

"Dear Sisters:—The organization of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association will be completed in October next at the time of the meeting of the General Board of Missions, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, notice of which will soon be given in our Church papers. A convention for the adoption of the constitution for our Society and to effect the general organization, is hereby called to meet in Calvary Church, Perry street, Cleveland, Ohio, on the date of the annual meeting of the

Board of Missions. It is very much desired that your Society be represented at this convention by at least one of your own members; more if you choose to send them. We are ready to take care of all who come, and your presence and help are very much desired.

"The work to be done is of great importance and of vital interest to each society and every woman in the Church.

"Will you please present the matter at your next monthly meeting, and inform us, as early as possible, of your decision? We hope you will conclude to send a delegate, and if a more definite explanation is desired, I shall be glad to write again.

"Yours sincerely,

"Mrs. W. H. Hammer."

In response to this call there were representatives at the convention from Naperville, South Chicago, and Chicago English Mission of the Illinois Conference; Greensburg and Pittsburg, Fulton Street Mission, of the Pittsburg Conference; Akron, Tiffin, Lindsey and Cleveland, of the Ohio Conference. Letters of greeting were received from societies and interested workers at West Salem and Circleville, Ohio; Lima, Indiana; Polo, Illinois; Lewisburg, Pa., and East Portland, Oregon.

There were many good things uttered at this meeting.

Mrs. Preyer in the welcome address said, "I tell you if the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association does not grow and become a strong factor in the missionary enterprises of the Church it will be the fault of the women."

Notice, this gracious woman did not spend valuable time berating opposers; she left the dead past to bury its dead, and sought in a strong, clear, forcible manner to put present responsibility just where it belonged.

Mrs. E. L. Kiplinger, of Naperville, Illinois, very forcibly illustrated the power and necessity of organization.

She told an incident of one of Chicago’s great strikes. The streets were filled with a furious mob, threatening destruction to life and property. Eight thousand business and professional men gathered, with blanched faces, in a great building, seeking some way to check the violent uprising. Suddenly a tremendous cheer arose from the multitude outside, and looking for the cause, a little company of tired, travel-begrimed men, wearing the “belt and blue” of our army, was seen coming across Madison street bridge. Less than a hundred men, well trained, did vastly more to relieve that tense situation than the deliberations of 8,000 citizens. An Irishman addressed one of the soldiers, who was of his own nationality, thus: “You wouldn’t be after shootin’ a fellow, would you?” The man replied: “It’s just as the captain says.”

Such is the power of organization and discipline. If we are as loyal to our great Captain the strongholds of evil must yield as we sweep onward and upward.

The Corresponding Secretary wrote thus concerning this convention: “The earnest petitions to our heavenly Father for success were not all uttered in Calvary Evangelical Church, where so many have already learned the worth of prayer. Many others from near and far, in the East and the West, were earnestly engaged in sending the same plea to the throne of God, and from distant Japan came the inspiring message, ‘We are praying for you!’”

Rev. Charles Hammer was present at the meeting and said of it, “I considered it a great privilege to be an eye witness of such a devotional interest, of such burning zeal in the cause of the missionary work as was manifested among those sisters. It reminded me forcibly of the time when the general missionary organization was effected 46 years ago, of which I also had the privilege of being an eye-witness, and of having been one of the few who aided in its organization.”

On the wall was the Society motto, given by Mrs. W. H. Hammer, and used first June 24, 1884: “A Woman’s

Missionary Society in every congregation and every woman a member.”

While these women with closed eyes and bended knee besought God for a favorable answer from the Board, they were represented before that body, in a neighboring church, by wide-awake, fleet of foot scouts, who eagerly watched the proceedings, and the moment the desired decision was reached sped swiftly back to Calvary Church and immediately prayer was turned into praise.

The Board considered the constitution, as prepared by the committee, as being too complicated, and appointed a committee to confer with the petitioners in preparing another constitution.

On Monday evening, October 12, 1884, the following constitution was ratified by the Board:

Article I.—This Society shall be called the Woman’s Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, an Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association of North America.

Article II.—The object of this Society shall be to engage the earnest, systematical co-operation of the women throughout the Church, in aiding the missionary enterprises of the Evangelical Association by extra funds, efforts and prayers, the dissemination of missionary intelligence, and cultivation of a missionary spirit in the family and the Church.

Article III.—Any woman may become a member of this Society by paying annually one dollar. The payment of ten dollars shall constitute a Life-Member, and twenty-five dollars an Honorary Member.

Article IV.—The Officers of this Society shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting by ballot.

Article V.—The duties of the different officers shall be:

1. The President shall preside at all the meetings of the Society, and also at the meeting of the Executive Com-

mittee, and shall appoint all Committees not otherwise ordered.

2. The Vice-President standing first on the list shall preside in the absence of the President.

3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a list of all the members and of the Auxiliaries of this Society, and keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Society, and present the same to the Board of the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association of North America for approval, and also record the proceedings of the Executive Committee, and give notice of the meetings of the same, as well as of the meetings of the Society.

4. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of this Society, and shall give a full report of the condition of the Society at its annual meeting.

5. The Treasurer of this Society shall remit its receipts to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association of North America, and this in proper time, so that such remittances can be included in the Annual Report of the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association of North America.

Article VI.—The Officers of this Society shall constitute an Executive Committee, who shall in the intervals of the annual meetings manage the affairs of the Society.

Article VII.—All local auxiliaries of this Society shall stand in the same relation to the Annual Conferences, in whose bounds they are located, as all other Missionary Auxiliaries of our Church, or of the Missionary Society of such Annual Conferences.

Article VIII.—All temporal affairs of this Society shall be under the management of the General Board of Missions of the Evangelical Association.

Article IX.—This Constitution can be changed only by two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting of this Society, and by the ratification of the General Board of Missions of the Evangelical Association of North America.

Early Tuesday morning, October 13, the convention met in its final session to organize the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association. After adopting the constitution the following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, Cleveland; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. H. C. Smith, Naperville; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Allentown, Pa.; 3rd Vice-President, Miss Minerva Strawman, Lindsey, Ohio; Recording Secretary, Miss Emma L. Yost, Cleveland; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Cleveland; Treasurer, Mrs. U. F. Swengel, Cleveland.

A happier band of women than this bright, new, vigorous society would have been hard to find. They started out with a membership of forty-nine, including life and honorary members; and the treasury contained one hundred and sixty-one dollars. Mrs. S. L. Wiest was the first life-member, and Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, the second. The first honorary member was Mrs. Charles Baltz. Mother Dill, a lady seventy-five years old, who had come from Pleasant Hill, Ind., to attend this convention, was the second honorary member. Enthusiasm ran high and the work of final organization was accomplished in less than an hour. The meeting adjourned and the members went forth to scatter the good seed far and wide. A constitution for auxiliaries was soon prepared and published by the executive officers, who found some trouble in bringing all societies to work together harmoniously as one general society. About one-third of the societies, then in existence, took auxiliary relations during the first year. Wherever possible, managers were appointed in the annual conferences to aid in forming auxiliaries. Pastors throughout the Church were again requested to co-operate and also to send names and addresses of workers. To the eager eyes watching the work, it seemed to move slowly, but the foundation was being laid broad and deep. One special help was the missionary program for the monthly meetings prepared by Mrs. Preyer, beginning January 1, 1885, and published in the "Evangelical Messenger" at the request of the Editor.



MISS MARY GRIMM,
Corresponding Secretary.

CHAPTER VI.

FAIRLY LAUNCHED.

“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught.”—Luke 5: 4.

These enthusiastic sailors on life's sea having safely launched their noble craft, proceeded to obey the Lord's command and let down their nets. No one ever did this unsuccessfully under His direction.

The auxiliary at Lindsey had the honor of being the first of the local societies to send in their contribution to the general treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society, thus becoming an auxiliary. The next was the Akron society. Mt. Cory was also one of the pioneer societies. Interesting and gratifying reports appeared in the Church papers. The first annual meeting was held in Lindsey, Ohio, September 25-27, 1885. This convention was well attended, delegates being present from points nearly a thousand miles apart. They were given a warm welcome by Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. L. Nauman.

Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, in the response, said, “We are on historic ground. I say ‘historic’ because the Woman's Missionary Society of Lindsey has the honor of being first in the field.”

The following greeting was received from Miss Ada B. Johnson, missionary to Japan: “If I do not have time to write for the meeting, assure the dear sisters of my deep sympathy and give them my congratulations that the first stage in their journey has been reached and with so many evidences of a Father's loving approbation. Winds and storms strengthen the oak, teach it to cling with greater tenacity to the rock; so may all adverse circumstances and

'contrary winds' tend to strengthen the faith of our Woman's Missionary Societies, and teach them to cling to the Rock of their strength.'

The Corresponding Secretary gave an interesting account of the work in securing the co-operation of the local societies throughout the annual conferences. There were about sixty of these societies. A constitution was prepared and presented to them for consideration and adoption. There had been a mixed condition of affairs. Some societies had organized under a constitution of their own, and others under one circulated by the Cleveland society. Their interests, too, were divided, a few societies giving entire attention to the foreign work, and others adhering to the well-known proverb, "Charity begins at home." The majority rather doubtfully entertained the idea of a general organization. Therefore, clear heads and loving hearts were in demand, and the demand was promptly met. How wonderfully the golden rule of our Lord is adapted to the needs of all!

A special hour for united prayer for God's blessing upon the Society, and for our missionaries at home and abroad, was decided upon at this meeting; the hour agreed upon was six o'clock each Sabbath evening.

The Board of Missions was requested to publish a Church missionary periodical.

The Executive Committee was authorized to prepare a constitution for Children's Mission Bands.

The sum of \$1,532.84 was reported by the Treasurer. Through the failure of some auxiliaries to report, the amount on hand fell below the actual sum contributed.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. H. B. Hartzler; First Vice-President, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer; Second Vice-President, Mrs. H. C. Smith; Third Vice-President, Mrs. W. E. Detweiler; Recording Secretary, Mrs. S. S. Condo, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. W. Hammer; Treasurer, Mrs. U. F. Swengel.

A high official in the Church, referring to the convention, said: "If the Woman's Missionary Society had accomplished nothing more than to bring out the latent gifts of the sisterhood in the Church, its existence would be justified."

Miss Kate Klinefelter, of Inland, Ohio, wrote of this meeting, "God has so signally owned and blessed the 'extra' effort during the first year of our general organization that the most faint-hearted should take courage and receive new inspiration to go forward under the blessed divine impulse of our loving Father." Later Miss Klinefelter wrote, "While silently looking over the woman's column week after week, my heart has been thrilled with joy at the sight of the 'shaking among the dry bones' of these women writers. Though I hear not the noise, I see in the original matter from their pens, the bones coming together, 'bone to his bone.' The sinews, the flesh and the skin complete the form, and the Lord God sends from the four winds, breath upon the slain, that they may live, and they shall yet stand upon their feet, an exceeding great company. 'It is the Lord's doings and it is marvelous in our eyes.' "

The writer of the above, since known as Mrs. Kate Klinefelter-Bowman, by voice and pen and prayer gave heroic service for the Woman's Missionary Society.

A prominent minister in our Church, speaking of the Parent Missionary Society, said, "She is the mother of twenty-five children, of which the Woman's Missionary Society is the youngest.

"This youngest child is a daughter, and the only daughter in the Evangelical missionary family, and is an active daughter and sister, of which the mother and twenty-four brothers may feel proud. She is an honor and credit to the family of which she is happily a member, and active in her mission. Notwithstanding her youth she is wielding an influence which is felt throughout the Church, and as she grows older and reaches the years of

maturity she will be an indispensable factor in carrying forward our missionary work.

“Our Church at large has learned more of the mission fields of the world since the birth of this Society, through the active pens of our sisters, than in twenty years before.”

God kept raising up warm friends for our cause and the number of auxiliaries was steadily multiplied.

The second annual meeting was held October 1-3, 1886, at Naperville, Illinois. Mrs. H. C. Smith, in an address of welcome, had this to say of North-Western College:

“No other college, we venture to say, sends out more manly men or more womanly women. For twenty-five years the good work of Christian education has gone on here. It has fully measured up to the standard raised by the pioneers. North-Western College has always been suggestive of Christian spirit, Christian progress, Christian education, Christian enterprise.

“We wish we could gather our boys and girls, men and women home to-day from the pulpit, the lawyer’s office, the publishing house, the sick-rooms, the school-rooms, the farm and the fireside to exchange greetings.

“Again we welcome you with pride to our beautiful village which for beauty and variety of natural features, its genial and hospitable citizens, its growth and healthy sentiment on the great moral questions of the day, its able representatives of the medical, mercantile, legal, ministerial, educational and editorial professions, is not surpassed nor equalled by any village of like size in the West.”

Rather strong statement, but if we may judge from the people we have met from both town and college, it must be true.

Mrs. Krecker, wife of our deceased missionary, Dr. Krecker, of Japan, was present at this convention. An interesting feature was the meeting between Mrs. Krecker and Tayama. Four years before, this young Japanese had been converted under the labors of the sainted Dr. Krecker. He had at this time been in North-Western Col-

lege about two weeks, whither he had come to prepare himself for mission work in his own land. This was the first appearance of a Japanese convert of our Church to take part in a public meeting in the home land.

Another feature of this convention was the interest taken by the sisters in the "Missionary Messenger," the first number of which had just been issued, October, 1886. The expense of the paper was borne by a number of brethren, known as the "Missionary Messenger Company." The only responsibility on the part of the Woman's Missionary Society was to send in large subscription lists and furnish an editor for a certain number of pages kindly offered them by the publishers. The magazine was greeted with over 500 subscribers at once.

Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer was elected editor of the Woman's Department.

The Corresponding Secretary's report showed the number of auxiliaries almost doubled, and the "extra" fund gathered about 90 cents per member. The twenty-one district managers were given credit for a large share in the work of advancement during the year. The difficulties were thus referred to: "It is meeting disinterestedness face to face in many instances. It is enduring the slow process of seeking after latent powers, of developing talent which has been carefully hidden away in the napkin of ease and contentment. It is the 'casting of bread upon the waters' and waiting anxiously, almost impatiently, for the 'gathering after many days.'" But we have abundant evidences that their work has not been in vain."

Seven Mission Bands were reported.

A plan for a general contingent fund was adopted at this time, viz.: a contribution of five cents a year per member, for the current expenses of the Society.

The total amount raised in 1886 was \$1,806.57.

Officers elected were: President, Mrs. H. B. Hartzler; First Vice-President, Mrs. H. C. Smith; Second Vice-President, Mrs. F. G. Stauffer; Third Vice-President, Mrs. Dr. Kreckler; Recording Secretary, Mrs. S. S. Condo; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hammer; Treasurer, Mrs. U. F. Swengel.

CHAPTER VII.

APPROVED.

“Acceptable to God and approved of men.”—Rom. 14: 18.

Could we wish a higher position for our beloved Society?

Approval! the very word sends a thrill of pleasure and inspiration through our being. How soon the little child learns to read approval in its mother's face, and under wise restriction and her approving smile grows into an ambitious, joyous youth!

Under the approving eye of our heavenly Parent, and the increasing appreciation of friends, old and new, our Society grew vigorously.

In June, 1887, the “Evangelical Messenger” referred to “the quiet, persistent labors and unceasing prayers of the sisterhood of our Church in their Woman's Missionary auxiliaries,” and also said that the missionary spirit of the Church had been mightily reinforced by their influence.

A few years previous to this time the Wisconsin Conference expressed the conviction, “that the missionary work carried on by the women of our Church, is of the greatest importance for the promotion of God's kingdom, and the salvation of mankind. That the movement is highly opportune, and that already thereby a greater interest and zeal in the missionary cause has been awakened throughout the Church.” In a small but growing city there are always a few men with sufficient foresight to locate real estate that will be of great value in coming years. The Wisconsin Conference was blessed with similar foresight in spiritual things.

The third annual meeting was held in Cleveland, Ohio, Calvary Church, August 26-28, 1887, with thirty-four delegates in attendance.

The sister who responded to the address of welcome at this meeting, Mrs. H. C. Smith, of Naperville, Ill., has been closely identified with the Woman's Missionary Society from the beginning, being one of the famous "seven petitioners," and all along "the years of our pilgrimage" her devotion to the work has been clearly revealed. She said concerning that wonderful chapter, the 13th of I. Corinthians, "If we have all these cultivated to the highest degree possible and have not the power of loving one another in spite of differences, faults and defects, and making the best of what is good in one another, we can do nothing."

We heartily second every word so earnestly spoken by Mrs. Smith. Oh, sisters of the Woman's Missionary Society, we may not be able to speak "with the tongues of men and angels," but we can have the sting of sin removed through the power of Jesus Christ, and receive in its place His wonderful loving kindness toward every creature for whom He died. Thus we shall have His sweet patience with each other, and His work will move forward grandly. Let us take time to read often Paul's "charity chapter."

Conference organizations were here discussed for the first time, and during this year the Bureau of Literature was established. A series of missionary tracts and leaflets was donated. Instructive and interesting programs for the monthly meetings were prepared by Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer.

It was decided to apply for special work through a petition to the Board of Missions.

Text of the petition:

"Dear Fathers and Brethren:—We send you greetings in the name of our common Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, as representatives of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, and as fellow-workers with you in the cause of God. We desire to report with grateful hearts that the Society organized in 1884 by the permission

and instruction of General Conference of 1883 has been blessed of God in its work and has been made a helper and blessing to many. The Society has tried to labor earnestly and to do the best it could within the limits and according to the constitution framed by the Board of Missions. We are thankful to God for the measure of success and prosperity that the organization has been permitted to realize. Beginning with a single local society of a few women, it has grown to about 78 auxiliary societies and 2,048 members located within the bounds of 11 conference districts, and has gathered, for missionary purposes about \$5,102.88. Believing that the Lord has graciously led and helped us in this work, and being persuaded that we ought to follow the leading of Him who prompts us, we are constrained to express to you the conviction of many hearts among our sisterhood, that if we were given some specific work such as your honorable body may approve, it would serve as an incitement to greater interest and still more earnest, united and persistent effort through the entire Society. We have carried this matter upon our hearts from month to month with an ever-deepening conviction that the assignment of such work would be for the good of our beloved Church and the promotion of His glory, whose we are and whom we serve. And now, dear fathers and brethren, we come to you, praying that you will help us, by such legislation as will be necessary to carry out our convictions, and to accomplish what we believe the Lord asks of our hands. We would respectfully request your honorable body that in your deliberations on this subject you give favorable consideration to the following suggestions:

“1. As we have at present only one unmarried lady missionary in Japan, we as a Society could assume the responsibility of her support, and in addition to this, perhaps the support of at least one of the native Bible women.

“2. Or, we could aid in supporting a girls’ school in Tokyo, if the Board should see fit to open such a school.

“3. And in connection with some of the foreign work,



MRS. H. MATTILL,
Treasurer.

herein suggested, we could aid in supporting some mission enterprise in the home field—Washington Territory for instance.

“We most earnestly and prayerfully await your decision.

“Yours for Christ and the Woman’s Missionary Society,
“Executive Committee W. M. S.”

It was resolved to appropriate \$500 toward the liquidation of the debt resting on the Parent Missionary Society, \$300 to Germany, and the remainder to the general treasury of the Parent Society.

A committee, consisting of Mrs. H. C. Smith, Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler and Mrs. S. F. Entorf, was appointed to draft by-laws for the Woman’s Missionary Society.

On the Sabbath day of this meeting \$173 was contributed for the missionary cause.

We quote from the Corresponding Secretary’s report:

“Three years of personal effort and varied experiences—three years of earnest work, of care, anxiety and partial success—three years of the breaking up of the fallow ground, seed sowing and patient waiting for the season of fruitage, three years of persistent, importunate and prevailing prayer while obediently walking in a path divinely appointed! All this has aided materially in placing the Woman’s Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association on a solid basis, where it is recognized as a helpful factor in our Church polity . . . He, who is just and holy, called in a voice which woman’s intuition could best understand. She obeyed, conscious that the secret of success in this work, as in all other work for the Lord, must be her consecrated living for Him. The missionary machinery of the Church constructed by the fathers and successfully operated under Divine guidance all these years, seemed to have all the forces of the Church contributing toward the completeness of its design. All enterprises were blessed because sustained by consecrated funds and consecrated prayers, in all of which earnest, zealous women were notably inter-

ested. It was for these same devoted ones to discover a designated spring in this machinery waiting for woman to touch and open. It moves quietly and harmoniously on its mission of gathering the 'extra' gift for the Lord's treasury. Its power, electric in nature, has gone forth touching and retouching the Christian impulse of the sisterhood of the Evangelical Association, prompting them to action, to special efforts and willing sacrifice in the extension of Christ's kingdom."

The officers elected at this meeting were as follows: President, Mrs. H. B. Hartzler; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. E. Kreckler; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. H. C. Smith; 3rd Vice-President, Mrs. F. G. Stauffer; Recording Secretary, Mrs. S. P. Spreng; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hammer; Treasurer, Mrs. U. F. Swengel; Editor, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer.

September, 1887, General Conference adopted the "Missionary Messenger" as one of the authorized Church organs, beginning with the October number. One year's association with her brothers in the "Messenger" household proved "Miss" Messenger to be a useful and necessary member of that distinguished family.

A lot of sturdy fellows
Fill a house with joy and noise,
But, 'tis after all a lonely home
Where the children are all boys.

Miss Ida Hahn has given an instructive bit of experience. At one time they were sent to labor in a church which "rested" under a debt of \$150. This "rest" had been previously disturbed by portions of plaster falling from the church ceiling. The former preacher's "rest" received a severe shock, as he departed with only five-sevenths of his salary. When the new pastor proposed organizing a Woman's Missionary Society the situation was anything but "restful," but with the assurance that the Lord would provide, a Society was organized. Through interest thus

aroused in foreign missionary work the people saw where they had been negligent in regard to the work at home, they made a heroic effort, and, lo, the debt was soon canceled, the ceiling was replastered, and the pastor's salary was paid in full. Moral:

If you want to see things move
With dispatch and propriety,
Proceed at once to organize
A Woman's Missionary Society.
For when to heathen lands we send
A faithful Gospel teacher,
We care more for the work at home,
And gladly pay our preacher.

CHAPTER VIII.

NEW WORK.

“And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk.”—Ex. 18: 20.

If any company of Christian workers were ever anxious for Divine direction these women were. They persistently studied “laws and ordinances.” They learned to meet defeat with patient courage, and victory with sweet humility. The year of 1888 brought need for all these graces.

Rev. S. Heininger, Corresponding Secretary of the Parent Board, made the following reference to the Woman’s Missionary Society in his annual report to the Board in 1888, “I could only wish that all our members would acquaint themselves as thoroughly with the great need of the mission field as many of our sisters have done. We certainly would have a far more intelligent missionary spirit than we now have.”

At the same meeting of the Board, the committee on the Woman’s Missionary Society reported as follows:

“1. Your committee has carefully examined the proceedings of the Woman’s Missionary Society and found them correct, and hereby recommend their approval.

“2. Resolved, That we rejoice over the marked progress perceivable in this department of our missionary operations, and over the earnestness and zeal manifested by our sisters in the good work of spreading the message of salvation.

“We wish them God’s choicest blessing in their good work for our common Lord and Master.”

The editor of the woman’s department greeted these kind words with, “Thank you, brethren! It feels so good to be appreciated, please tell us once a year at least.”

The report further says:

"Whereas, Our sisters have expressed a desire to undertake the support of a special part of our mission field; therefore be it further

"Resolved, That the support of our missionaries in Washington Territory and that of Sister Ada B. Johnson in Japan be committed to their care under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Missionary Society."

Among the many bright, helpful items and bits of advice given out by the editor of the woman's department in those days, we notice the following: "Join a Woman's Missionary Society, get full of it, work for it with heart and hand; then you will have no time to watch the uprising and down sitting of your neighbors." We commend this to communities where Dame Gossip may be seeking to break up families and even trying to disturb the peace of church homes. It is a sure cure.

During this year, 1888, the Executive Committee had to meet peculiar difficulties. The President and Treasurer had removed to homes in the East and thus the regular monthly meetings for planning and consultation were very irregular. Much of this work had to be done by the slow way of correspondence. And yet financially this was one of the most fruitful years. Mrs. U. F. Swengel, having resigned as treasurer, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer was appointed to the position.

The petition to the Board, for special work, having been received with favor, the support of Miss Ada B. Johnson, in Japan, and of the missionaries in Washington Territory fell into the willing hands of the Woman's Missionary Society. This greatly aided in interesting workers and in gaining the sympathy of pastors.

The fourth annual meeting was held in Chicago, Ill., September 28-30, 1888. The recording secretary being absent, Mrs. E. M. Spreng was appointed to act in that capacity. At this meeting, Conference Branch organization was again presented, as one of the greatest needs. Plans

for this feature of the work were thoroughly discussed and a constitution was prepared, to be presented to the Board of Missions for ratification.

A number of changes in the constitution for the General Society were recommended. Plans for a larger supply of missionary literature were considered.

The Committee on Ways and Means asked for more space for our work in the "Missionary Messenger," and that a monthly program for the use of Mission Bands be published in the "Missionary Messenger." The 8th item from the report read thus, "Inasmuch as it seems to be important that the work of our Society be brought more directly to the attention of our German sisters, therefore, we recommend that the Executive Committee request the editor of the "Christliche Botschafter" to give space for the Woman's Missionary Society interests in that paper, and in case such request be granted, the Executive Committee shall appoint some one to furnish missionary matter for the said space, and that she prepare a monthly missionary program to appear in the same columns."

Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. H. B. Hartzler; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. E. Krecker; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. H. C. Smith; 3rd Vice-Pres., Mrs. J. Hartzler; Rec. Sec., Mrs. Charles Baltz; Cor. Sec., Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler; Treasurer, Mrs. N. G. Schneider; Editor, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer.

By the election of officers at this meeting the headquarters of the Executive Committee were changed from Cleveland to Chicago.

The "Missionary Messenger," noting the change wrought by this election in the office of corresponding secretary, referred to Mrs. W. H. Hammer's work in the following manner: "Much of the present standing of the Woman's Missionary Society is due to the hard work of Mrs. Hammer, beginning several years before the general organization of the Woman's Missionary Society and continuing to the present time, working mostly under the dis-

advantage of a frail body, she has nevertheless not grown weary in well-doing. She has earned the appreciation of all interested in our work, and she has it too."

Early in 1889 Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, of Cleveland, Ohio, was appointed, by the Executive Committee, to prepare programs for auxiliaries for the year, to be published in the "Evangelical Messenger" and the "Missionary Messenger."

Miss Ella Horn, of Cleveland, Ohio, was appointed to prepare the programs on the monthly topics, in German, to be published in the "Christliche Botschafter."

At the Executive meeting, February 28, 1889, Mrs. W. H. Hammer was appointed as representative of our Society on the World's Committee of Woman's Missionary Societies. The object of this committee is to "secure concerted action on the part of the foreign and home missionary societies. 1. For special prayer; 2. For united effort for other purposes, as, for example, the legal relief of the 20,000,000 widows in India; 3. For the arrangement of any general conference that may be deemed desirable."

In spite of careful, prayerful planning many new discouragements appeared during the year, and much work proposed at the annual meeting was delayed.

The constitution for Branch organization was rejected by the Board of Missions. The Executive Committee prepared another, to be presented at the next annual meeting.

As a pleasing contrast, the Mission Band work, under special attention, advanced rapidly. It is always restful when we can turn from the cares and perplexities that sometimes oppress us, to the bright faces of the children.

CHAPTER IX.

NEW DIFFICULTIES.

“The clouds return after the rain.”—Sol. Song 12: 1.

Early in its history, our beloved Society passed through stimulating showers of opposition, followed by sunshine and rainbow. But now clouds were gathering denser and darker than ever before, for dissension had crept within the once united band and before the year of 1891 closed the Master’s words were verified, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

Somebody, somewhere, somehow “sowed discord among brethren.” Many went out from our Association. The trouble entered the Woman’s Missionary Society, resulting in disorganization. But before this culmination was reached two more annual meetings were held, for a number of the sisters were hoping and vainly striving for the old time peace.

The fifth annual meeting was held at Reading, Pa., Sept. 20–22, 1889. The attendance was better than at any previous meeting. The presence of a large number of pastors added greatly to the interest and encouragement. How far-reaching is the influence of a genial, wide-awake, deeply spiritual pastor! The pastor in a bright welcome address said, “I read some time ago of a preacher who says that while driving along a country road one day he overtook a lad, trudging along with a heavy basket on his arm. He invited him to put the basket in the buggy, step in himself and ride. The boy did so, and the preacher says the boy was so bright and interesting in conversation that when they had come to the end of their journey, he scarcely knew whether he had given the boy a ride, or whether it was the boy who had given him a ride. So we expect our



MRS. L. H. SEAGER,
Superintendent Mission Bands.

mutual relations to be so pleasant that at the close of this meeting neither of us will know whether you or we got the ride." That is the life that Jesus Christ would have us live daily. Such is heaven begun below.

Though the difficulties of the year had been many the report of the corresponding secretary indicated considerable progress.

A constitution for Branch organizations was again prepared, and this, with the necessary changes in the constitution of the General Society, was presented to the Board of Missions for ratification.

Mrs. U. F. Swengel, of Baltimore, Md., was appointed to take charge of the Bureau of Missionary Literature.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. Dr. Kreckler; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. F. G. Stauffer; 3rd Vice-Pres., Mrs. W. F. Fouke; Rec. Sec., Mrs. Charles Baltz; Cor. Sec., Mrs. S. F. Entorf; Treasurer, Mrs. N. G. Schneider; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Mrs. T. L. Haines; Editor, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer.

Soon after this meeting the Board of Missions approved and ratified the Branch Constitution.

Text of Branch Constitution:

Constitution of Conference Branch Societies.

Article I.—This Society shall be called the (——) Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association of North America.

Article II.—The object of this Society is to aid the W. M. S. in engaging and uniting the efforts of the women in behalf of the missionary work of the Evangelical Association.

Article III.—The members of this Society shall consist of the officers of the Society, the President and two delegates from each local auxiliary, and the honorary and life-members within the bounds of the Branch.

Article IV.—The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent of Mission Bands.

Article V.—Each Branch Society shall hold an Annual Meeting, previous to the Annual Meeting of the W. M. S. to elect its officers and delegates, to the Annual Meeting of the W. M. S. and to transact any business pertaining to its work.

Article VI.—The officers of this Society shall constitute an Executive Committee, to supervise the entire work of the Branch. It shall be their duty to make earnest efforts to secure the organization of auxiliaries and Mission Bands, in every congregation in the Conference, and also to arrange for the time and program of Annual Meetings.

Article VII.—Each Branch Society shall provide for the expenses of its delegates to the Annual Meeting of the W. M. S.

The sisters asked for four more pages in the "Missionary Messenger." The Publishers could not afford to grant this request, but the associate editors, in brotherly kindness, offered to divide the magazine space evenly with their sisters. The favor was gratefully accepted.

After the adoption of the new constitution the Executive Committee appointed the following persons to confer with the managers of the districts in the conferences, as to the time and place for meetings at which Branch organizations could be effected. Des Moines, Miss Ida Hahn; Illinois, Mrs. W. H. Fouke; Indiana, Mrs. A. O. Raber; Kansas, Mrs. J. H. Tobias; Michigan, Mrs. L. H. Wagner; Ohio, Mrs. F. G. Stauffer; Oregon, Mrs. W. C. Kantner; East Pennsylvania, Mrs. Dr. Kreckler; Central Pennsylvania, Mrs. K. E. Detweiler; Pittsburg, Miss Kate Klinefelter; Platte River, Mrs. S. F. Shenberger; Wisconsin, Miss C. Schneider.

Arrangements were made to send constitutions to the corresponding secretary of each auxiliary, for distribution. It was also earnestly requested that each auxiliary hold a thank-offering meeting in January, one-half of the offering to be used as a fund for the establishment of missionary literature supplies, as ordered at the annual meeting.

In February, 1890, Mrs. H. C. Smith began to furnish suggestive Woman's Missionary Society programs to accompany those of Mrs. Gamertsfelder.

In the "Missionary Messenger" for March, 1890, the first list of leaflets, twenty-one in number, is given. A large number of these leaflets were free through the generosity of Mr. W. H. Hammer.

The first Branch organization was effected in the Platte River Conference, at Beaver Crossing, Nebr., March 15, 1890. Rev. J. P. Ash was then pastor at that place. The report indicates that the conference members gave hearty encouragement and support.

A notice in the "Missionary Messenger" about this time reads thus: "We hope the report blanks soon to be sent out will be carefully filled and promptly returned. We want an accurate report of our standing." Those ghostly blanks will not down. At the beginning of another century we are still wrestling with them, trying to "fill accurately" and "return promptly."

The East Pennsylvania Conference Branch was organized at Myerstown, Pa., June 25-26, 1890.

The Illinois Conference Branch was organized in Salem Church, Freeport, Ill., July 9-11, 1890, followed by the Ohio Conference Branch organized on the Pleasant Home camp-ground, August 22, 1890. The Central Pa. and Pittsburgh Conference Branches were also organized in 1890.

The sixth annual meeting was held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 19-22, 1890, at Calvary Church, Oakdale Street. This was the first meeting after the revision of the constitution, which limited the representatives to the officers of the Society and the regularly appointed delegates of the Branch Society, hence the delegation was smaller than hitherto, only six Conference Branches having been organized.

Mrs. Dr. Kreckler was made General Organizer, and Mrs. W. H. Hammer was appointed to prepare programs for Mission Bands.

It has always been a perplexing question in our Society to know what to do with our children who seem to be too old for the Mission Band and too young for the Woman's Missionary Society. At one time a constitution was provided for what was called Junior societies, but the work did not proceed much farther than that.

Mrs. F. G. Stauffer was made Superintendent of Literature. Mrs. W. H. Hammer was also appointed to send greetings and messages from this annual Woman's Missionary meeting of the Evangelical Association to the World's Committee of Woman's Missionary Societies. Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer was appointed to prepare programs for auxiliaries.

The former officers were elected with the exception of Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ada Collins, of Naperville, Ill., being elected in the stead of Mrs. S. F. Entorf. And according to the revised constitution but one vice-president was elected.

The proceedings of this meeting were published in pamphlet form, including a history of the Woman's Missionary Society, prepared by Mrs. W. H. Hammer and Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer.

At the close of 1890 Mrs. Preyer, editor of the woman's department of the "Missionary Messenger," having moved South with her family, Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder was appointed to the position by the Board of Missions. The editor of the "Missionary Messenger" had this to say of the Board's choice: "The Board of Missions at its recent session appointed Sister Gamertsfelder, the wife of the able assistant editor of the "Evangelical Messenger," and sister of that paper's worthy chief. So you see the new editor who will take charge of the woman's department, with the January (1891) number, comes out of an editorial family, and we bespeak for her the earnest support of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association."

At the first meeting of the Ohio Conference Branch, June 5-7, 1891, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, then corresponding sec-

retary of that Branch, was appointed to "make a tour of the conference territory and organize Woman's Missionary auxiliaries and Children's Mission Bands, and, with the consent of the pastors, take up a collection at each place, to defray expenses."

In the September (1891) issue of the "Missionary Messenger" the following notice appeared, signed by the secretary:

"The Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Society, at a meeting held July 20, 1891, unanimously decided that the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society be held after the meeting of the General Conference and the Board of Missions."

At a meeting of the Board of Missions, held at Indianapolis, Ind., October 16, 1891, the following decision was reached:

"Whereas, The constitution of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association requires that the annual meeting of said Society should be held in the month of September, and

"Whereas, The Executive Committee of said Society, however, postponed said annual meeting until after the session of General Conference in direct violation of their constitution, and their offices have thereby become vacant, and

"Whereas, Many sisters connected with said Society have petitioned the General Conference for the re-organization of said Society, therefore

"Resolved, That all the auxiliary societies of the Woman's Missionary Society be requested to send delegates to the special meeting to be held in the Madison Avenue Evangelical Church, Cleveland, Ohio, at such time as may be fixed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Missions for the purpose of re-organizing said Woman's Missionary Society."

One bright star of hope shone above the wreck of the old organization. The Woman's Missionary Society, under the blessing of God, had become a power for good, and our people felt that it must be revived. Hence officials, high in Church authority, urged and aided its re-organization.

CHAPTER X.

RE-ORGANIZATION.

"Then said Samuel to the people, Come and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there."—Sam. 11: 14.

December, 1891, the "Christliche Botschafter" and "Evangelical Messenger" gave notice that a meeting had been called, to be held in Trinity Church, East Madison Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, to begin on Friday, February 6, 1892, and to continue over the Sabbath. Societies and Branches were urged to send delegates and make provision for the re-organization of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association. Both brethren and sisters were earnestly exhorted to aid in organizing auxiliaries and Branches throughout the Church. The Church officials were eagerly asking for a renewal of the Woman's Missionary Society. Under God's blessing, womanly patience and perseverance had brought about circumstances they scarcely dared dream of in the beginning. Thus was our Israel called to "renew the kingdom," at Cleveland.

Saturday morning, February 7, the meeting for re-organization was called to order by Bishop Wm. Horn. Mrs. Peter Conklin conducted the opening devotional exercises. We quote from the opening address by Bishop Horn: "True giving, in the missionary sense of the word, signifies giving yourself, with all your means, your powers of intellect and influence—your whole soul. To do that, the love of Christ must fill our hearts to such an extent that no room is left for selfishness, love of office, etc., but all our exertions have only the one aim, to glorify our Saviour and extend His kingdom. That means success."

Miss Amanda Rickert was appointed to report the proceedings to the Church papers, and Mrs. S. L. Umbach was

made secretary pro tem. A discussion revealed the necessity of electing officers who were familiar with both the English and the German languages. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Wm. Horn, Cleveland, Ohio; Vice-President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, Akron, Ohio; Rec. Sec., Miss Amanda E. Rickert, Akron, Ohio; Cor. Sec., Mrs. S. L. Umbach, Naperville, Ill.; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Mattill, Cleveland, Ohio; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Mrs. H. C. Smith, Naperville, Ill.

Saturday p. m. Bishop Horn took the chair and the resignation of Mrs. Wm. Horn, as president of the Woman's Missionary Society, was presented. The resignation was reluctantly accepted. Mrs. E. M. Spreng was then elected president, and Mrs. S. Heininger, vice-president.

Mrs. Spreng then took the chair and the sisters, like the good people we used to read of in our childhood days, lived "happily ever after."

Letters of greeting were read from Woman's Missionary Societies in Rochester, Ind., Naperville, Ill., Norristown, Pa., Vera Cruz, Ind., and Bellevue, Ohio.

The original constitution was adopted and a committee was appointed to revise it. Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder was unanimously elected editor of the Woman's Department of the "Missionary Messenger." Mrs. G. Gaehr, of Cleveland, Ohio, was appointed to prepare monthly topical programs for the Society, to appear in the "Christliche Botschafter," and Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder to prepare the same topics for publication in the "Evangelical Messenger" and the "Missionary Messenger." Mrs. H. C. Smith was appointed to prepare the Mission Band programs.

It was decided to adopt the use of thank-offering boxes and continue the annual thank-offering meetings.

The bishops were requested to present the cause of the Woman's Missionary Society to the conferences at the annual sessions.

The Ways and Means Committee was made a standing committee for the year. One of the very pleasant and

helpful features of the convention was the singing of Miss Ola Rickel, now Mrs. Atwater. She sang the Gospel right into the hearts of the people.

Sunday morning Bishop Breyfogel preached an uplifting sermon from the words, "Behold your King." St. John 19: 14.

Another marked feature of the convention was the urgent plea for earnest prayer for guidance throughout the work.

The convention closed on Monday with the Woman's Missionary Society once more in good working order.

February 27 the Executive Committee appointed the following organizers: Erie Conference, Cleveland District, Mrs. G. Gaehr; Pittsburg District, Mrs. T. G. Wettach; Indiana Conference, Elkhart District, Mrs. M. L. Albert; Fort Wayne District, Miss Arvilla Stillwell; Indianapolis District, Miss Mary Grimm.

Illinois Conference, Elgin District, Mrs. H. C. Smith; Peoria District, Mrs. A. Voegelein; Chicago District, Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Mendota District, Mrs. J. G. Kleinknecht.

Michigan Conference, Flint District, Mrs. J. G. Haller; St. Joe District, Miss Emma Berger; Monroe District, Mrs. W. H. Wagner.

Kansas Conference, Kansas City District; Mrs. H. J. Bowman; Holton District, Mrs. C. E. Erffmeyer.

The organizers of each conference constituted a committee to effect Conference Branch organization. The first-named in each being chairman of that committee.

The "Missionary Messenger," June, 1892, said: "The re-organization of the Woman's Missionary Society of our Church has already resulted in increased activity among the sisterhood. New societies are organizing, new zeal is being manifested, and new faith, courage and hope have been inspired. The Woman's Missionary Society also enjoys the confidence of the Church as it perhaps never did before."



MRS. S. J. GAMERTSFELDER,
Editor Missionary Messenger.

The second annual meeting of the Ohio Conference Branch was held at Akron, June 10, 1892. This was the only Branch that came out of the general disorganization intact.

August 2, 1892, the Indiana Branch was organized at Rochester, Ind., camp-meeting, with Mrs. S. Heininger as president.

Kansas Branch was organized August 12, 1892, at Hiawatha, Kan., Mrs. H. J. Bowman, president.

The Illinois Branch was organized August 13, 1892, at Naperville, Ill., Mrs. W. Neitz, president.

The Erie Branch was organized at Linwood Park, August 11, 1892, with Mrs. G. Gaehr as president.

The seventh annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society was held in the English Church at Elkhart, Ind., September 2-5, 1892. We quote from the corresponding secretary's report: "But a few short months have passed since we sat in earnest counsel, and with prayerful deliberation tried to gather up the scattered portions of the Woman's Missionary Society of our Church, and re-unite them under efficient, faithful management.

"It is especially gratifying to us that we have not stood alone in our efforts. From the very beginning we have enjoyed the hearty co-operation of our brethren in the ministry.

"The sisters who were appointed as organizers by the Executive Committee, in the various conferences, deserve special credit for the faithful work which they have done in the face of many hinderances. Not upon the 'successful' but upon the 'faithful,' has the Master pronounced His, 'Well done.'

"Through the columns of the 'Missionary Messenger' our attention has been called to the large debt resting upon our Parent Missionary Society, and although there are many other worthy objects of support, we believe that to help liquidate this debt should be made the special work of the Woman's Missionary Society for the coming year."

It was decided that Conference Branches should be organized as rapidly as possible. Also that a woman be appointed in each auxiliary to solicit every woman to subscribe for the "Missionary Messenger." It was also resolved that two pages of the "Missionary Messenger" be devoted to the Mission Band for short items and stories on missionary subjects; also that so soon as practicable a woman's German missionary paper be published.

Attention was called to the devotional exercises of each auxiliary meeting, and the sisters were urged to make these a source of spiritual power to every member, through the aid of the Holy Spirit. This part of the meeting need not consume much time, and yet it may be made exceedingly profitable to all concerned. Let us seek the power necessary for this result.

It was resolved to insert a clause in the constitution for auxiliaries, that ten per cent of all money contributed shall flow into the general treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society unappropriated.

Mrs. G. Gaehr, Mrs. S. H. Baumgartner, Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder and Miss Bessie Yost were appointed to prepare a list of topics for the monthly meetings.

The Mrs. Gaehr referred to here is the same modest, retiring but faithful woman who organized the Erie Branch and who in every possible way has given herself to the work of the Woman's Missionary Society.

The Executive Committee was authorized to prepare and publish rules and regulations for the auxiliaries.

Also that the Woman's Missionary Society issue a call to the sisters of our Church for a universal day of prayer for the cause of missions in our Church, and that each child of our Evangelical homes and Sunday-schools be asked to bring at least one penny to the general treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society.

The most important change in the constitution provided for quadrennial meetings of the General Society instead of

annual meetings, as formerly. The Executive Committee alone holding annual meetings.

In order that the quadrennial meetings of the Society, provided the new order be ratified by the Parent Board, coincide with General Conference years, it was resolved to hold the next convention three years hence.

The annual sermon was preached by Bishop Thomas Bowman.

Mr. W. H. Tayama, the Japanese student at Naperville, Ill., was presented to the convention and became an interested and interesting attendant.

The Parent Board, on receiving the proceedings of this convention, referred to "the modest yet confident and intelligent manner in which our sisters have undertaken the work." Further the Board said: "We would afford all possible encouragement to our beloved co-laborers, and herewith also express the hope that our preachers will everywhere support and assist them by word and deed. The Lord bless the sisters of our Church, and strengthen them more and more, inciting them to holy zeal in their labor of love."

Later, the Executive Committee announced January 8, 1893, as the universal day of prayer.

February, 1893, was set apart as thank-offering month. The offerings to go toward liquidating the debt resting on the Parent Society.

Early in 1893 the Executive Committee appointed Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger vice-president of the General Society, to succeed Mrs. S. Heininger, resigned.

In a letter to auxiliaries about this time the President, speaking of the Jewish women and their gifts and work for the building of the tabernacle, said, "Dare we for a moment think God expected more of the daughters of Abraham than of the sisters in Christ? So far as the material part of their work is concerned, it has faded and is no more. Theirs was the fashioning of the tabernacle; ours is the moulding and fashioning of the spiritual temple, the soul; our work is higher and holier."

Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. S. L. Umbach were appointed to represent our Woman's Missionary Society at the World's Woman's Congress of Missions in connection with the World's Fair at Chicago.

There is an editorial in the "Missionary Messenger" of 1893 that it seems well to keep in mind: "Vary missionary meetings as much as possible. No good method is always and everywhere successful. Tired and forced forms are forever fatal to life. Growth is everywhere the law of greatness and goodness."

Mrs. Baumgartner, on account of ill health, was obliged to give up preparing programs for the Woman's Missionary Society. Miss Mary Bucks was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The eighth annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Society was held in Naperville, Ill., September 26, 1893. The secretary had faithfully sought reports from all auxiliaries and branches, but in spite of her efforts many failed to respond, consequently a complete report could not be given. It was decided that the secretary should hold the report until a more complete record could be secured and the Woman's Missionary Society be fairly represented.

The corresponding secretary reported that though the progress had not been so rapid, as had been desired, the growth was sound and steady. There had been a large demand for good leaflets during the year, which was regarded as a hopeful indication.

It was resolved, That the editor of the "Missionary Messenger," with the persons who prepare the monthly programs, constitute a permanent program committee. Also that January 7th be observed as a Day of Prayer for the missions of the Evangelical Association, and that the annual thank-offering meeting be held in November.

Mrs. H. C. Smith, Mrs. W. H. Hammer and Mrs. E. M. Spreng were made a committee to secure leaflets for the coming year.

Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger, Mrs. H. C. Smith and Mrs. S. L. Umbach were constituted a committee to revise and provide report blanks for auxiliaries and branches.

Mrs. Kate Klinefelter-Bowman was appointed General Organizer of the Woman's Missionary Society in the Spring of 1894.

CHAPTER XI.

CLIMBING.

“They shall climb the wall like men of war . . . and they shall not break their ranks.”—Joel 2: 7.

Our heroic Society continued to climb steadily upward, scaling walls of difficulty for Christ and the Church, because the love of their great Leader bound them together. May we, as Christian women and soldiers of Christ, ever guard against jealous and unholy ambition lest we break ranks and flee before the enemy.

The ninth annual meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the home of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, Cleveland, Ohio, September 21-24, 1894.

The corresponding secretary reported a number of new auxiliaries, and others preparing to organize.

Also that the literature department was in a very good condition and well patronized. Some busy housewives think they have no time to read, but if they would snatch a few moments now and then for good literature they would find the body rested, the mind enlarged, the soul refreshed and husband and children would have a more helpful companion.

An encouraging condition of affairs was noted in the Mission Band department. How important is this work among our children! We knew a little member of the Mission Band who was sometimes sent quite a distance to the grocery, and to make the way seem shorter she would carry plantain seeds and throw them among the thistles by the wayside, playing they were missionaries sent among the heathen. She is now growing into young womanhood, and we believe, is learning that the way to brighten our

journey through this world to the Father's house above is to scatter the "good seed of the kingdom" on every side.

Dear Mission Band Manager, you cannot know until the "roll is called up yonder" the full value of your faithful, patient work.

It was found that the quadrennial convention plan for the General Society had the beneficial effect of bringing into greater prominence the Conference Branch conventions.

The resignation of Miss Mary Bucks to be relieved from preparing programs for auxiliaries, was presented and was reluctantly accepted. Miss Mary Gamertsfelder was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The resignation of Mrs. Kate Klinefelter-Bowman, General Organizer, was also reluctantly accepted.

It was decided to publish a special thank-offering program for the month of November, 1895, and to send a copy of the same to every auxiliary of the Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. H. Mattill and the Program Committee were instructed to carry out the plans of the Executive Committee.

Mrs. W. H. Hammer, our representative on the World's Committee, presented a letter from said Committee on "Plan for Systematic Giving," through its chairman, Mrs. Esther Tuttle Prichard, requesting the co-operation of our Society with them in promoting the principles of Christian stewardship, and the Scriptural method of giving. The Executive Committee expressed their hearty sympathy with this important movement and appointed Mrs. Hammer and Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger a standing committee on the promotion of the cause of Systematic and Proportionate Giving among us.

Mrs. S. L. Umbach, Corresponding Secretary, was instructed to send a letter of greeting from the Woman's Missionary Society to the Young People's Alliance Conference Branches, assuring them of our sympathy and co-operation, and urging them to introduce the study of mis-

sionary literature in their meetings and inviting them to unite with us in the prosecution of mission work.

It was also ordered that the president address a letter to the Board of Missions, setting forth the needs of the Woman's Missionary Society, and also expressing our desire to have the privilege of supporting some special field or feature of mission work.

Early in 1894 the Executive Committee decided to provide thank-offering boxes for the use of auxiliaries free of charge. The demand for leaflets both for the Woman's Missionary Society and Mission Bands kept increasing, showing a steady growth of the work on all sides.

Arrangements were also made to provide Life-membership Certificates distinctively our own, to be issued to those who pay \$10.00 to the General Treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society.

At this time the Parent Missionary Society had several promising applicants for work in the mission field under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society, but the necessary funds were lacking.

The Board of Missions held its annual meeting for 1894 in Berlin, Canada. Our Society was mentioned as follows: "The Woman's Missionary Society has scarcely enjoyed such a degree of prosperity since its re-organization as in the year just ended. Nineteen auxiliaries were organized and the membership increased from 1,000 to 1,600.

"The contributions of the Society to the general cause of missions amounted to \$2,000, a gain of \$900.

"Ohio and Indiana are the strongholds of the organization.

"Wherever auxiliaries exist it is their aim to enhance the interests of the cause of missions."

"The systematic labors of the sisterhood of the Church united in harmonious endeavor for the cause of missions, can only be fraught with blessed results. After informing myself as to the work of our good sisters in Germany and Switzerland in behalf of the cause of missions I am con-



MRS. W. H. HAMMER,

Member Executive Board, and of World's Committee of
Woman's Missionary Societies.

A woman

11/20/18

vinced that they too are earnestly engaged in supporting the same to the best of their ability." These items of good news from time to time, coming from our sisters over the sea, blessedly remind us that

"We are not divided,
All one body we;
One in hope and doctrine,
One in charity."

A committee of the Board of Missions reported thus: "We have examined the proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Society and found them in good order. In view of the great financial crisis the Woman's Missionary Society has rendered efficient service in collecting missionary funds, for which we desire to express our gratitude and joy. They have contributed the commendable sum of \$1.41 per member during the past year. Highly appreciating this help, we would encourage the Woman's Missionary Society to continue in this good work.

"We implore God's richest blessing to rest upon the sisters in the future, and hope that they may be more and more successful. We would also encourage all the sisters of the Church to join the good movement and help spread the glad tidings of salvation by their extra gifts.

"Inasmuch as the Woman's Missionary Society has petitioned this Board for the privilege of supporting some specific mission in the foreign field, we would recommend that this petition be referred to the Executive Committee for favorable consideration, however, with this restriction that no new mission field be taken up or supported."

Wherever our Society is thoroughly understood it is appreciated. Some of our brethren who were slow to see any reason for its existence are now heartily thanking God for it.

President Mrs. E. M. Spreng not only visited the Board of Missions, but also took a trip among auxiliaries in Canada, giving help and encouragement everywhere. She

visited 14 different congregations and gave twenty-two talks, five of which were to the children in the interest of Mission Band work. Altogether she felt greatly encouraged with the work in the Dominion.

She spoke thus after her meeting with the Board: "I wish that all our people might know that the mission debt has not come by extravagance upon the part of the Board or by reason of poor management; there is nothing of the kind in this connection. Opportunity and necessity have called for two dollars where but one has been expended. The Board has been economical and conservative, careful and business-like in the management of the funds and all the affairs of our missionary operations. The fault is not with the Board. It is with us. If we had always paid what we owe to the Lord, the Board would always have had plenty of money and there would be no debt. More than that, we would to-day have many more workers in the field and would be occupying more fields. and none of us would have had less bread to eat, or would have lacked anything in raiment. Perhaps if some of us would give up regularly what is the Lord's we would have more to keep for ourselves."

In the June, 1894, issue of the "Missionary Messenger," our editor gave some very sensible advice to Branch conventions. It runs thus: "Make arrangements for some special singing. Good singing often touches the heart when other means fail.

"Be sure to give plenty of time for the discussion of topics and committee reports, especially the Committee on Ways and Means. If the matters which this committee usually have to deal with are properly discussed and explained the delegates will reap much benefit, and they will go home to their auxiliaries better prepared for work, because they understand better what is expected of them, and last but not least, see to it that the soul may be refreshed and blessed by spending at least a part of the time of each session in communion with Him whom we

serve, whose we are, and whose honor and glory we are seeking."

March, 1895, was set apart for self-denial in the Woman's Missionary Society. A touching plea for its observance appeared in the "Missionary Messenger." When we think of the life long agony endured by women of heathen lands, and then of our own sheltered happy lives under the reign of Jesus Christ, it does seem that we might do vastly more than we are now doing for the world's redemption. We can at least pray more; and earnest, believing prayer will lead to action.

An offer was made at this time to all who were life-members before the re-organization of the Woman's Missionary Society, that by sending name, address and fifty cents they could secure one of the new Life-membership Certificates.

The Society now had a chain of auxiliaries reaching across the continent from Maine to Washington, and from ocean to ocean, with plenty of room for growth.

Reports from various Branch conventions were very encouraging.

By the way, dear reader, if you want to know what "women have done," "what women are doing" and "what women should do," in regard to missions, just attend your next Branch convention; help all you can and get all the help you can from "start to finish." We well remember with what conflicting emotions we were hustled off to our first convention. It did seem as if the home sky would fall if we were away three or four days, but it didn't. Husband and children assured us that they knew more about home-keeping than mother gave them credit for knowing, and they did.

CHAPTER XII.

THE FIRST QUADRENNIAL.

“But in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy to praise the Lord withal.”—Lev. 19: 24.

It seems fitting that every fourth year we should gather the fruit from all the branches of our Woman's Missionary Society tree and bring it to one place “to praise the Lord withal.”

The first Quadrennial of the Woman's Missionary Society was held in Dayton, Ohio, August 30, 31 and September 1, 2, 1895. It was the tenth annual meeting of the Executive Committee and, may we add, the first missionary convention the writer ever attended. To say that we thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end is putting it very mildly. We were entertained by a hospitable German family where not only every need but every want was delicately anticipated. Mrs. Woerner, then secretary of the Erie Branch, was also a guest in that home. We formed a warm attachment for her and there will ever be for us a special charm in connection with the Erie Branch because of that dear, brave little woman who so early went home to be with God. We say brave, having in mind a conversation we had with her shortly before the Sunday evening service of this convention, the devotional part of which she had been requested to lead. She said that, as she had been led to understand bravery, it was not the absence of fear, but the steady performance of duty, through Divine strength, even though the heart trembled and the cheek paled; and we who heard her that evening, knowing her timidity, were delighted with the calm, courageous manner in which she met and conquered fear. There seemed to be a long useful life before her, but God had planned otherwise.

President Mrs. Spreng said in her excellent address, "I am glad that our conventions have hitherto always risen above the purely business transactions and have been intensely spiritual so that the workers have returned to their places with renewed courage and stronger faith and higher aspirations in the Lord." True, and yet in that our initiatory convention we learned to love the "purely business transactions," too. Perhaps we are partial to missionary women, but there is certainly a gentle dignity and Christ-like forbearance among those women doing business for their Lord that we fail to find elsewhere.

We quote from an address by Mrs. Baumgartner: "Let us take the same interest in regular attendance upon our monthly meetings that the little boy did who came home from Sunday-school very jubilant at the prospect of a coming concert. When asked by his mother whether he had any part to perform, he promptly replied, 'Yes, mother.' She then asked, 'What have you to do?' 'Got to go,' was the prompt reply. I think if all felt the responsibility and also the joy of performing the part 'got to go,' there would be more regular attendance and the work would move on grandly."

This convention decided that if possible the Mission Bands be given some special branch of work to be supported by themselves.

The following report of the Literature Committee, adopted by this convention, indicates the aggressive spirit of the Society.

"Whereas, The need of more literature, adapted to the needs of the Woman's Missionary Society is urgently felt, and

"Whereas, The space allotted to our work in the 'Missionary Messenger' is inadequate for the proper representation of our interests from time to time; therefore

"Resolved, That we respectfully request the General Conference at its approaching session to place the entire space in said 'Missionary Messenger' at our disposal, and to

make such arrangements as in its wisdom may seem best to promote the usefulness and effectiveness of this publication.

“Whereas, The work and interest of the Woman’s Missionary Society is increasing in the German portion of the Church and the need of a German missionary paper is felt, and the different Conference Branches have sent in earnest requests that something may be done at this meeting to meet the demand; therefore

“Resolved, That we issue a prospectus of 1,000 copies of a German paper, after the pattern of the ‘Missionary Messenger,’ the name to be ‘Der Missionsbote,’ and that these copies be sent out to secure provisional subscribers at twenty-five cents per year.

“Resolved, That the Woman’s Missionary Society continue the literature supplies, and that it shall be a permanent department of the Society’s work. That the quadrennial convention appoint the superintendent of said department, and that the Executive Board appoint two members who shall together with the superintendent constitute a committee on literature supplies.

“We recommend that this be made a by-law of the constitution for the General Society.

“Mrs. J. H. Lamb.

“Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder.

“Mrs. H. Mattill.”

The Committee on Ways and Means, whose report was adopted by the convention, recommended, “that each auxiliary provide for its own use a circulating missionary library of books, leaflets, tracts and a reliable missionary map.

“That the Executive Committee of the Conference Branches plan local or district conventions to be held at suitable times, and where there is no Branch, that such meetings be planned by the Executive Board of the Woman’s Missionary Society.

“That each auxiliary provide a contingent fund, to be used in defraying the incidental expenses of the auxiliary, each member contributing ten cents per annum.

“That organizers be appointed in Conference Branches.

Report of Committee on Constitution.

“Whereas, The different Conference Branches have unanimously approved the changes in the constitution of the General Society, recommended by the Executive Board; therefore

“Resolved, 1. That Article III. shall read: The members of this Society shall consist of the officers of the Society and the delegates of the Branch societies, who shall consist of two delegates from each Branch Society, one to be elected from the officers of the Branch, and one to represent the Mission Bands, and one additional delegate for every ten auxiliaries within the bounds of the Branch, said delegates to be elected at the annual meeting of the Branch, preceding the quadrennial meeting of the Woman’s Missionary Society.

“2. Article VII.—The officers of the Society and Editor of the ‘Missionary Messenger,’ and two members elected by the Society shall constitute an Executive Board, etc.

“3. And that the by-laws of the Woman’s Missionary Society be changed to read: Executive Board, instead of Executive Committee.”

By-Laws of General Society.

“Article VI.—The Recording Secretary shall keep a full list of all auxiliaries and addresses, and a correct record of the proceedings of the Society and the meetings of the Executive Board, and shall annually present to the Board of the Parent Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, the proceedings of the Society and the meeting of the Executive Board, for approval, and give notice of the meetings of the Executive Board, as well as the meetings of the Society.

“5. Article IV. of By-Laws of the Conference Branch Society shall be changed to read: It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all funds of the Branch and transmit the same semi-annually to the treasurer of the Woman’s Missionary Society, the last report to be sent in at least two weeks before the annual session of the Executive Board.

“6. Article V.—The Superintendent of Mission Bands shall correspond with the leader of each Band within the Conference Branch, also with the General Superintendent of Mission Bands, and furnish a report of the work at the annual Branch meeting, and to the annual meeting of the Executive Board of the Woman’s Missionary Society.

Constitution of Auxiliaries.

“7. Article I.—This Auxiliary shall be known as the (——) Woman’s Missionary auxiliary to the (——) Conference Branch of the Woman’s Missionary Society. Local Woman’s Missionary Societies not located within the bounds of Conference Branch organizations are auxiliary to the General Woman’s Missionary Society.

“8. Article VI.—The officers of this auxiliary shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by ballot from its members in the month of May.

“Article XII.—The Treasurer shall receive all money of the auxiliary, record receipts and expenditures and pay over the funds to the treasurer of the Branch in the months of November and May, to be appropriated as the auxiliary may direct. But at least ten per cent of the funds shall flow into the general treasury of the Woman’s Missionary Society.

“Article XIV.—The fiscal year of the Woman’s Missionary Society begins with June and ends with May of the following year, when all accounts and reports must be closed and all officers elected.

“Mrs. E. M. Spreng.

“Mrs. George Sindlinger.

“Mrs. H. Mattill.



MRS. C. A. THOMAS,
Member Executive Board.

"Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder.

"Miss Amanda E. Rickert."

"Committee on Constitution."

At this convention a communication was received from Henry Tayama, Japan. He wrote in part as follows: "Since I returned home, after ten years' stay in America, I am more fully convinced than ever before of the need of Christian influence upon our homes in Japan. This is what I missed in my childhood days, and this is what the children of to-day are missing, namely, the holy influence of Christian homes. It is therefore an excellent arrangement to have Bible women visit the homes of Sunday-school children, and teach them from the Bible, and instruct them of the love of Jesus."

An appropriation of \$400 was made by the convention in favor of the treasury of the Parent Missionary Society.

At the close of the last meeting of the convention President Mrs. E. M. Spreng, who is seldom caught napping, was pleasantly surprised. Mrs. W. H. Hammer made the following remarks: "This gathering has been one of happy surprises from its very beginning, and I have the pleasure of announcing another before we separate. A number of us have desired to manifest in some way our high appreciation of the untiring zeal and energy, faithful effort and courage of our beloved President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, in the great interests of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, we have, therefore, increased the sum of missionary money already given at this our tenth anniversary by the amount of \$25.00, and we are happy to say to her that she is now an Honorary member of the Woman's Missionary Society." Thus the sum raised at this convention reached \$245.

The former officers were all re-elected.

Mrs. G. Gaehr was elected to prepare programs for the monthly meetings, to be published in the "Christliche

Botschafter," and Miss Mary Gamertsfelder for the "Evangelical Messenger." For Mission Band programs, English, Miss Bessie Yost; German, Mrs. C. H. Gehlke.

Mrs. W. H. Hammer was made superintendent of the Literature Department, and Miss Leah Meck assistant corresponding secretary.

Mrs. C. A. Thomas and Mrs. W. H. Hammer were elected to membership on the Executive Board.

The following comparative statement of membership and contributions indicate, to a certain extent, the growth of the Society. In 1892 the Society numbered 697 members; in 1895, 2,065 members. Money contributed in 1892, \$751.17; in 1895, \$2,136.56. Total amount raised since reorganization, \$6,545.36.

The "Missionary Messenger," speaking of this delightful convention, said: "Sunday was the crowning day of the convention. We all wished we could be in both churches Sunday morning, so as to hear both the German and the English sermon. Those who were at the Commercial Street Church thought they had the best, while those who were at the Wayne Avenue Church were just as positive they had the best. All were abundantly satisfied, it was a time of sowing—the reaping will come by and by."

CHAPTER XIII.

BROTHERLY PRUDENCE.

“The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way.”
—Prov. 14: 8.

Our brethren of the General Conference were prudent and understood their way, but it was still difficult at times for them to understand our way. Looking back from our present altitude we cannot but admire their carefulness in dealing with these matters. Woman's kingdom is the home, and far be it from us to advocate anything that would lessen her influence there; but we firmly believe that the husbands, children and homes of missionary women will stand scrutiny above many others. Coming in touch with the world's great needs will make a woman more tenderly thoughtful for her own children, and still more appreciative of the stalwart Christian husband, who by Divine appointment, stands between her and the dreadful sorrows that break the hearts of heathen women. The softening, refining experiences through which one passes while engaged in this work, would be a wonderful recompense for time and strength given if there were no other results. As fast as our brethren have learned these facts they have generously and cheerfully granted our requests. So now we can understandingly read, as our sisters patiently read in those days, the decision of the General Conference in regard to granting the Society's request for assignment to mission work. The Conference held that as all worked for the same purpose in spreading the Gospel the Sisters' plan was superfluous and also impracticable.

The Conference likewise refused to give the Woman's Missionary Society entire control of the “Missionary Messenger.” The space formerly allotted them was again

placed at their disposal. Rev. T. C. Meckel was constituted responsible editor.

The Conference consented to issue a prospectus of 1,000 copies of a German missionary paper corresponding in size and form with the "Missionary Messenger," to be called the "Evangelische Missionsbote," and as soon as 1,000 subscribers were secured it should be issued monthly.

Rev. G. Heinmiller was appointed responsible editor of this paper, and the Woman's Missionary Society was to be given space so far as might be agreeable to the editor.

The Society was given permission to change their by-laws so as to read Executive Board instead of Executive Committee.

The General Conference then closed their decisions in regard to the Woman's Missionary Society with the following, to which we would call the careful attention of all pastors who may still feel a little timid about helping us: "With pleasure we observe the zeal of the Woman's Missionary Society. Since the re-organization of this Society commendable progress has been made by the sisters in the work entrusted to their hands. Despite the difficulties surrounding them they have labored on faithfully, zealously and successfully. During the past quadrennium over \$6,000.00 missionary money was raised by the Woman's Missionary Society, an excellent result. As the General Conference at its last session ordered the re-organization of the Woman's Missionary Society, and as the Church is especially at the present time in need of the hearty and united co-operation of all the forces at her command, we would kindly yet earnestly urge the organization of Woman's Missionary Society auxiliaries in all parts of the Church to the end that the coming quadrennium strong, systematic work may be done by our sisters in the interest of the missionary cause. For this we would repeatedly request pastors throughout the Church to assist the Woman's Missionary Society in organizing auxiliaries and to encour-

age the sisters in their efforts to strengthen their organization."

In due time a handsome stranger appeared, "Der Missionsbote," and the entire "Messenger" family received him as a brother. The "Missionary Messenger" gave him a cheery sisterly greeting, and also dispensed the following good advice to auxiliaries, "At our auxiliary meetings let us greet each other with a warm shake of the hand. We are engaged in missionary work; let us not forget our neighbors. A kind word, a cheery smile, a hearty shake of the hand can do a great deal towards lifting life's burdens. Not long since, a sister who was feeling sad, weary and lonely, went to the missionary meeting. At the close of the meeting several of the sisters made a special effort to be pleasant to this one. She said she went home feeling as though there had been some real 'home mission' work done at that meeting and straightway put an offering into her little box."

Much to the regret of all, Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Miss Leah Meck, resigned. Miss Mary Grimm, of Dayton, Ohio, was appointed to the position. The "Missionary Messenger" thus commented on the situation: "We think the two—Mrs. S. L. Umbach and Miss Grimm—make a right royal team for work, both having the advantages—so much needed for successful work in the Woman's Missionary Society—of being able to wield a double-edged sword—German and English."

Mrs. E. M. Spreng in an article entitled "The New Quadrennium," and published in the January "Messenger," 1896, said, "Let us remember three things, 1st. Never be discouraged; because good things grow slowly sometimes, and never fail to do daily that which lieth next to your hand.

"2nd. Not to be in too great a hurry, but be diligent, enter into the sublime patience of the Lord.

"3rd. Always be charitable; have the spirit of hopefulness and trust, notwithstanding the indifference and con-

servative elements that may hover around. There are various ways of helping to reach the mark of the quadrennium. I will mention a few.

“1. Above all, entire consecration to the Lord’s work, with all that it implies.

“2. Get and impart information about mission work.

“3. Circulate the ‘Missionary Messenger’ and ‘Der Missionsbote.’

“4. Make good use of the leaflet supply.

“5. Write for the ‘Missionary Messenger,’ ‘Der Missionsbote,’ the ‘Evangelical Messenger’ and the ‘Christliche Botschafter.’

“6. Write to persons who live in communities where we have no Woman’s Missionary Society and solicit their interest in the cause.

“7. Send to the corresponding secretary of your Branch the name and address of persons with whom she can correspond and effect an organization. To those of you who live in conferences where no Branch has been organized, send the names to the general corresponding secretary or her assistant.

“8. Have a good supply of constitutions to give out and send to those whom you try to interest.

“9. In your visiting agitate the Woman’s Missionary Society work.”

These suggestions are still in full force and will bear reading again and again.

The Executive Board appointed Sunday, February 2, 1896, as a universal “Day of Prayer” for the cause of missions in our Church, and asked for an offering from every person represented in our Evangelical homes, the proceeds to apply on the debt of the Parent Society.

The March “Missionary Messenger,” 1896, gave notice that the General Literature Committee would suggest at least two leaflets each month bearing on the subject studied, beginning with April, on Self-denial.

The "Missionary Messenger" for July, 1896, reported collected by the Kansas Branch the sum of \$484.25. Mrs. Spreng said of this Branch: "They have been growing spiritually while the crops were failing, growing amid discouragements of the severest kind, growing in the right direction, growing Godward. The hard times have not made them hard-hearted, but open-hearted. While the fields were suffering from drought their hearts have been receiving showers of heavenly blessing, and instead of shriveling and drying up they are in a flourishing condition. This is the result of a close and vital connection with the Saviour. God bless our sisters in Kansas."

Through all these earnest endeavors, under the blessing of God, the Society we love so well, kept steadily moving forward, getting nearer to God and gaining friends constantly.

CHAPTER XIV.

INSTANT IN SEASON.

“As we have therefore opportunity let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”—Gal. 6: 8.

The Executive Board met for the eleventh annual meeting at Naperville, Ill., August 12, 1896. There was a woman living in Chicago at that time who had an opportunity to do good to the “household of faith,” and she did it. Learning that our distinguished Board would meet so near Chicago, Mrs. Zipperer, whose husband was pastor of Noble Street Church, proceeded at once to arrange for a grand rally for missions of all our churches in the city at her own church home for the afternoon and evening of August 14. The rally was a grand success, and why should it not be with eight preachers and our Executive Board on the program and a preacher’s energetic wife to manage them? Thus has our Society grown, by watching for opportunities and quickly improving them.

Early in 1896 Mrs. E. M. Spreng wrote a letter to each of the conferences, setting forth the work of the Woman’s Missionary Society, to which they generously responded; the following from the New England Conference being a sample of the kindly interest of the brethren:

“We have received the communication of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, President of the Woman’s Missionary Society, with pleasure, and both desire and purpose to co-operate with the Society in its Christlike work of rescuing, saving and educating the women of the world. We desire to see Woman’s Missionary Societies formed on our charges, and will comply with the request of the Society to send the names and addresses of the women on our charges who would be most likely to co-operate with them in their work.”



MRS. ROSE MECK UMBACH,
Former Corresponding Secretary.

Answered Roll Call of Heaven—January 3, 1897.
Last Message, "Tell them to be faithful."

The New England Conference not only passed this clear-cut, enthusiastic resolution, but also went to work at once and organized Woman's Missionary Societies on most of their charges.

About this time the "Missionary Messenger" gave some very helpful suggestions on, "Some things to be accomplished at Branch conventions.

"1st. To come into closer communion with Christ, to become so permeated with His Spirit that any work for Him will be sweet. 2nd. To learn what our duty is as members of the Woman's Missionary Society. 3rd. To learn the lesson of our own personal responsibility and ability in the work. 4th. To become personally acquainted with the worker, and to learn new plans."

Also this: "The life and success of your convention depend largely upon the variety and brevity of your exercises." We wish we could most thoroughly impress the foregoing on every heart and mind engaged in the make-up of conventions, or indeed any missionary meeting."

But let us return to Naperville and see what the members of our Executive Board are doing at the annual meeting. We find them declaring some of their needs:

"1st. We need money." (One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.)

"2nd. That the pastors of the Evangelical Association place more faith in the women of the Church and their work.

"4th. We need one special, definite work which our money shall carry on." That last need had been pressing on the Society heart more and more year by year, "Something which our Society shall carry on. 'Still we're coming nearer.'"

Reports from the work were very encouraging. The membership had been increased and the interest deepened to a marked degree. The Corresponding Secretary said, "More people are talking about the Woman's Missionary Society than ever before." We recommend this subject for

conversation as a substitute for the weather and the state of one's health.

The Committee on Proportionate and Systematic Giving had sent letters to the Executive Committee of the various Branches seeking their co-operation in arousing interest along the line of this most excellent way of giving, and hoped to accomplish much thereby. It was thought that successful prosecution of the work rested largely with the Branch Superintendents of Proportionate and Systematic Giving.

A committee was appointed, consisting of the corresponding secretaries, Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger and Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, to co-operate and plan with the organizers to extend the work in effecting auxiliaries and Mission Bands throughout the Church. This committee was directed to procure suitable certificates for organizers and other missionary workers appointed by the Board.

Five hundred dollars (\$500) was appropriated for the mission debt.

The aim of conference organizers was directed toward the organization of a Mission Band in every congregation; even where it was found impossible to organize an auxiliary, an effort should be made to organize a Mission Band.

Cream white was selected as the color for the Woman's Missionary Society.

It was ordered that Honorary membership Certificates be prepared.

The Literature Committee was instructed to prepare and publish a leaflet defining the duties of officers. A little later such a leaflet was prepared by Mrs. E. M. Spreng.

At this time there were over 30 Mission Bands, with a total membership of 1,665; money raised \$360.69.

The Woman's Missionary Society membership was 2319; money raised, \$3,788.15, an average of \$1.48 per member.

The Board of Missions again highly complimented the Society, and requested each minister, where convenient, to

appoint a woman to assist him in securing subscribers for the "Missionary Messenger" and "Missionsbote."

The first Sunday in February, 1897, the annual Day of Prayer, was again observed.

January 3, 1897, the first loss through death came to the Executive Board when the beloved and talented corresponding secretary, Mrs. S. L. Umbach, was called to a higher position, in the better land. The writer never had the pleasure of meeting this lovely woman, but as we look into her pictured face and read her stirring, helpful letters, written to the Society at large, we do not wonder that those who knew her intimately were almost prostrated with grief.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Executive Board:

"Whereas, Our heavenly Father in His all-wise providence has called from labor to reward, Mrs. S. L. Umbach, the beloved and valued Corresponding Secretary of our Woman's Missionary Society, we feel sorely bereft of a faithful, self-sacrificing, effective worker; her wise counsel, fellowship and prayers will be greatly missed in our Board meetings. While sorrowing over her departure we rejoice for her parting word of testimony, 'O glorious victory through Jesus.' Her conscientiousness—her last message to her co-workers, 'Be faithful, faithful to the end,' together with the word of God, will inspire us to greater zeal in carrying out this work to which we have been called, therefore,

"Resolved, 1. That we submissively, though sorrowfully, bow to this dispensation of Him who doeth all things well.

"2. That in the death of Sister Umbach, the Woman's Missionary Society has lost one of its most efficient workers.

"3. That we are assured by her parting words that she is reaping the reward of her labors, and is now associated with the host above, who also had helped spread Christ's kingdom.

'4. That we express our heartfelt sympathy and condolence with this bereaved husband and his two motherless boys, and pray that God's grace may comfort and sustain them, and grant a blessed reunion in heaven.

"5. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family, and that they be published in the *Missionary Messenger* and *Missionsbote*."

Miss Mary Grimm, of Dayton, Ohio, was appointed to the office of Corresponding Secretary. As Assistant Corresponding Secretary she had proved herself a faithful and efficient worker.

The Woman's Missionary Society of Lincoln, Nebr., was said to have the honor of being the first auxiliary of the Woman's Missionary Society where our motto is fully realized. Every woman of the church being a member. We quote from a letter written by Mrs. A. E. Ash of the Lincoln Society, "We held our annual meeting in march. Rev. McKesson, our first missionary to Nebraska, spoke on 'home missions' and gave us some interesting facts from his own experience in home missionary work. Before Lincoln was located, he preached in a school house, traveled across the trackless prairies, slept by straw stacks, and often went forth upon his long journey weeping. But God was with him. So lonely was he at times that the wolf, prairie dog, rattle snakes and prairie chickens, all of which were very numerous there, were somewhat of a relief." Such were the men who paved the way for the oncoming hosts, God's heroes, how He must love them!

Bishop Thomas Bowman, at the Illinois Branch Convention, of 1897, expressed his appreciation of this department of the Church, in the following manner: "Every woman of the Evangelical Association should be a member of the Woman's Missionary Society," and then made his wife a life-member.

The Executive Board assembled for its twelfth annual meeting, August 31, 1897, but without their loved leader, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, who was absent on account of illness.

Vice-President, Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger, took the chair. The corresponding secretary reported considerable progress. She said, "There is a marked change in reporting names of newly elected officers of the local auxiliaries to the Branch corresponding secretary. This is the way it should be. Just think of the work of a Branch corresponding secretary to solicit each auxiliary for the names and addresses of their newly elected officers each year. This improvement goes to show that the women of the Society are being educated up to higher and better things.

"During the year I corresponded with every auxiliary that does not belong to a Conference Branch."

It was suggested that two programs be prepared for public meetings for the children, special programs for thank-offering for auxiliaries and Mission Bands, and a program for reference and suggestion on subjects studied.

It was decided to ask the Board of Missions for a children's department in the "Missionsbote" similar to that in the "Missionary Messenger." It was also ordered that the secretary shall list the auxiliaries not connected with any Branch and give each member of the Board a certain number of names for the purpose of correspondence.

Miss Emma Thomas was appointed to assist Mrs. W. H. Hammer in the work of the literature department.

The Literature Committee was directed to select leaflets as additional helps to the monthly programs, to be sent free to auxiliaries.

It was decided to discontinue the plan of having semi-annual reports from the treasurers.

The following items were added to the blanks:

1. How many Proportionate and Systematic Givers ?
2. How many sermons and addresses on Proportionate and Systematic Giving ?
3. How many life members secured this year ?
4. (a) How many "Missionary Messengers" ? (b) How many "Missionsbote" ?

Four hundred dollars were appropriated to the Parent Treasury.

It was resolved to ask the Board of Missions to give the Mission Band the privilege of supporting two native preachers in the Japan Conference.

The General Literature Committee reported the number of leaflets sent out from June, 1896, to June, 1897, as upwards of 900. Thank-offering boxes 871, Constitutions 680.

The interest in Proportionate and Systematic giving was steadily increasing. The agitation of the subject started by the Woman's Missionary Society seemed to be kept prominent in the minds of the people by special sermons preached on this line, and through the public meetings of the Woman's Missionary Society and Mission Bands, also our Young People's Alliance. Our membership for 1897 was 2,370. Total amount contributed \$4,076.50. Average per member being \$1.72.

Later the proceedings of the Board were ratified by the Board of Missions, and all requests were granted. Our Society was also commended in the following strong language:

"Inasmuch as the Board of Missions, to its great satisfaction, has been apprised of the fact that the Woman's Missionary Society has succeeded in increasing its membership as also the amount of money raised for all purposes, this in addition to the work done in spreading missionary intelligence throughout the Church, and organizing a veritable host of little ones into Mission Bands, and appreciating the fact that this work is done from sincerest motives requiring much self-denial on the part of those who render it; therefore

"Resolved, That we greatly value the work done by the Woman's Missionary Society in its several departments; that we have only words of commendation for them in their noble efforts, and that we will aid them in

every way possible for the enlargement of their influence for good and the increase of their membership, even to the full realization of their motto, 'A Woman's Missionary Society in every congregation and every woman a member.' " Is not that a graceful tribute ?

CHAPTER XV.

LIGHT IN THE EAST.

“And ye shall point out your east border.”—Num. 34: 10.

April 10, 1898, the New England Branch was organized with Mrs. Joshua Gill as president, and thus were we able ‘to point out our east border.’ Mrs. H. P. Perry, Corresponding Secretary of this Branch, told of their deep interest in the cause and the reflex influence of this work, bringing help and blessing to giver as well as to recipient. ‘There is that scattereth and yet increaseth.’

The Executive Board met in Cleveland for its thirteenth annual meeting, August 30, 1898, at the home of the President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng.

The Committee on Proportionate and Systematic Giving reported an increase in the number of this class of givers. The aggregate number given was 394. Forty-nine sermons were preached on the subject. Leaflets and sermons on giving seem to have played an important part in arousing interest along this line, which had extended beyond our border and captured many members of the Young People’s Alliance and others. Even the Mission Band had caught the spirit of tithing.

One special need noticed was that of leaflets adapted to our own plans of work. This need has since been met, in part, by Mrs. L. H. Seager, in the leaflet entitled, “Hints to Mission Band Managers.”

The Literature Committee reported that their work was one of “continuous delight, interest and inspiration.”

It was felt that there should be a closer connection between the Literature Committee and the Branches, and it was suggested that a wise plan would be to appoint some



MRS. ELLA J. YOST PREYER,
First President.

one in each Branch to carry on the work as assistant to the Literature Committee.

A letter from Abbie B. Childs, chairman of the World's Woman's Missionary Society Committee, was read, calling the attention of the Board to the anticipated World's Conference of Foreign Missionary Societies, to be held in New York in 1900, upon which the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That Mrs. W. H. Hammer, our representative on the World's Committee of Woman's Missionary Societies, be instructed to send a brief historical sketch of our Woman's Missionary Society, and pledge \$5.00 as our share of the incidental expenses of the proposed Conference.”

At this session of the Executive Board an appropriation of \$471.84 was made in favor of the Parent Board.

Mrs. H. Bennett was appointed to prepare a history of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association.

On account of ill-health Mrs. W. H. Hammer was compelled to resign her office as chairman of the Literature Committee, much to the regret of all. Her resignation was accepted and Mrs. E. M. Spreng was made chairman of this committee.

The following committee was appointed to make arrangements for the quadrennial meeting to be held in August, 1899: Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger, Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder and Mrs. H. C. Smith.

At this annual meeting the membership of the Society was reported at 2,534, and the contributions for the past year \$4,131.68, being an average of \$1.63 per member.

It is well to keep in mind the fact that all the work and gifts of the Woman's Missionary Society come under the head of “extra.” Our women, as a rule, are active in all lines of church work at home, but our organization is not an aid society. It is simply and solely for missionary work, and its funds should be used entirely for this pur-

pose. Aid societies, properly conducted, are all right, but they can not take the place of the Woman's Missionary Society. Each of these organizations has its special work, and we are sure there is room in all our churches for both these busy maidens.

The corresponding secretary of the Parent Board said in 1899, "The fruits of the endeavors of the Woman's Missionary Society thus far will be seen in days to come." That is what we are striving for. We aim to produce choice fruit. "O the good we all may do as the days are going by."

About this time Mrs. H. C. Smith, Superintendent of Mission Bands, undertook a trip to Michigan in the interest of the Woman's Missionary Society. She organized two auxiliaries and indications pointed to several more.

Mrs. E. M. Spreng, in an article, "How to Use Missionary Leaflets," said, "First, get them; second, read them; third, circulate them; fourth, keep them. The officers of auxiliaries should get a liberal supply of sample copies of leaflets, selected from the catalogue as published in the 'Missionary Messenger' and 'Missionsbote.' These sample copies should be carefully read and such selected and read at the regular meetings of the Society as are best suited to its local needs."

Early in 1899, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, President of the Ohio Branch, introduced the Cradle-Roll in that Branch. At the annual convention of the Branch, June, 1899, held at Lindsey, Ohio, 24 names were enrolled, the membership fee being twenty-five cents. And so the little ones are helping to tell the glad story.

The annual Day of Prayer is increasing in interest and power. We know God hears and answers prayer, and yet we fancy that surprise awaits us in the glory land in view of great results gained through humble, earnest prayer. Let us appreciate and improve this glorious privilege more and more.

In 1899 our Mission Band suffered loss through the marriage of their bright, cheery program writer, Miss Bessie Yost, to Mr. Isaac Cox, who carried his fair bride away to San Antonio, Texas, and left a mourning Band.

SUSAN M. BAUERNFEIND.

Miss Susan M. Bauernfeind was born in Minnesota, 1870. She attended the country schools until her 14th year, when it became necessary for her to leave school and assist her mother in home duties. For several years this dear mother received the help that only a loving daughter can render.

During the Summer of 1891, while reading some of Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon's sermons, Miss Bauernfeind consecrated her life to the Lord, and soon felt called to the foreign field. She could not see her way clear to answer this call personally, but in the same year entered North-Western College to learn stenography and thus prepare herself to aid the cause of missions. But once inside the college walls she was caught in the current of holy enthusiasm for missions, and believing the Christ who had called would also open the way, she volunteered for the foreign work.

In the Fall of 1892 Miss Bauernfeind entered the law office of Hon. H. H. Goodrich, of Naperville, Ill., as stenographer, retaining this position for seven successive years. It was chiefly through the kindness of Mr. Goodrich that she was enabled to finish a college course, as he arranged the work so that she could carry on some work in the college at the same time.

In the Summer of 1894 she attended Mr. Moody's Bible Institute, and also did some home mission work.

Miss Bauernfeind graduated from North - Western College, in June 1899, having finished both the pure German course and the Philosophical college course.

In the Fall of 1899 she was appointed missionary to Japan by the Board of Missions of the Evangelical Association. She sailed Sept. 22, 1900.



MISS SUSAN M. BAUERNFEIND,
Missionary to Japan.

CHAPTER XVI.

IMPORTANT STEPS.

“Thou hast enlarged my steps.”—2 Samuel 22: 37.

How patient God is with our short steps, but how pleased He must be when holding His hand, we swing off into long easy strides in the upward way. When we have learned to trust in Him and “nothing on earth beside,” then He can safely enlarge our steps.

The second quadrennial convention was held at Howell, Mich., August 31 and September 1 to 4, 1899. Seven members of the Board were present besides the regular delegates and visitors. We were royally received and cared for throughout the convention.

We quote from President Mrs. E. M. Spreng’s earnest and helpful address:

“Much prejudice has been overcome.

“The Society has paid thirty thousand dollars to the Church.

“Local societies are centers of missionary culture.

“Personal help cannot be computed mathematically.

“We have increasing calls for mite boxes and constitutions.

“Favorable resolutions by preachers. Let us help in carrying them out.

“We acknowledge the Editors’ help in our work.

“It is our duty to make ourselves understood.

“It is time we had a mission in Japan.

“If it is impossible to have a Mission Band in your society—have one anyhow.

“If you want to reach the grown-up people help the children.

“Auxiliaries should take more interest in Branch work.”

The Literature Committee reported the revision of the catalogue accomplished and many new leaflets added to the supply. Four English and six German leaflets were published.

This Committee sent out during the year 532 thank-offering boxes and the same number of "Mrs. Picket's Missionary Box" leaflet. Number of other leaflets, 3,030. Constitutions, 469. Cash receipts, \$29.48. Expenditures for supplies and mailing \$29.32.

It was decided to petition General Conference that the first number of each month of our "Kinderfreund," "Sunday-School Messenger," "Laemmerweide" and "My Lesson," respectively, be made a distinct missionary number; also that the General Conference make the "Missionary Messenger" the organ of the Woman's Missionary Society.

The Mission Band Superintendent reported 74 Bands, with about 2,000 members. Total amount of money raised by them in four years, \$2,289.61.

The report further says:

"Whereas, So many inquiries have been made by mothers and others interested in the formation of a Cradle-Roll in connection with the local auxiliaries; therefore

"Resolved, That we recommend a Cradle-Roll department of the Mission Band to which all children under five years shall be eligible to enrollment upon the payment of twenty-five cents; and that an appropriate certificate with the following verse on it be given to the mother for each child she enrolls:

The cup of living water
May pass through baby hands
To those who need, to those who plead
For help, in heathen lands.

"The form of the certificate being as follows:

"This is to certify that — is a member of the Cradle Roll of the Mission Band of the — Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association.

—, Mission Band Manager.
—, Mission Band President.

REPORT OF THE EXTENSION COMMITTEE.

"Whereas, The Board of Missions at its last annual session recommended to General Conference Article VI. in the revised edition of their constitution, which reads as follows:

"The business, the property, and all the affairs of the Society shall be managed and controlled by a Board, consisting of the officers of the Society, and one delegate from each of the several Conference Branch Societies, one delegate from the Woman's Missionary Society and four lay delegates, therefore be it

"Resolved, That we respectfully petition General Conference that the Executive Board of the W. M. S. be permitted to appoint annually during the present quadrennium a representative to the annual sessions of the Board of Missions, providing said article is adopted by General Conference.

"Whereas, It has been so difficult to introduce the W. M. S. to the various congregations by means of letters and printed appeals only, therefore be it

"Resolved, That Miss Lena Lintner be appointed general organizer to work under the direction of the Executive Board of the W. M. S.

"Whereas, According to information received from Rev. F. W. Voegelein, our honored missionary in Japan, that there is a great opportunity for promoting the cause of missions in their country, by doing certain kinds of benevolent work among the very poor, and

"Whereas, Bro. Voegelein has called our attention to the great need of this phase of the work, and of the possibilities of the good to be accomplished thereby, and

"Whereas, The work can be taken up and carried forward with comparatively little expense, therefore

"Resolved, That we request the honorable Board of Missions that a committee, consisting of the Executive Board of the W. M. S. and such members as the Parent Society may appoint, be empowered to take the necessary

steps to establish such a work, provided that the Board of Missions sees fit to recognize the suggestion made by Rev. Voegelien.

Executive Board, W. M. S. Committee,
Amanda E. Rickert, Re. Sec.'"

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION.

"Your committee beg leave to submit the following:

"1. Whereas, The Branch Treasurers find it difficult to keep correct accounts because of the diffidence on the part of the auxiliary treasurers in carrying out the requirements of Article XII., page 9, of our Constitution for auxiliaries, and

"Whereas, During the last quadrennium the growth of the work of our W. M. S. seems to require a division of labor of the respective secretaries of our General W. M. S. and also of the secretaries of the Conference Branches, therefore we recommend the following changes to be made in our Constitution:

"1. In Article XII. of Constitution for auxiliaries, the words "November and," shall be stricken.

"2. In Article IV. of Conference Branch By-Laws, the word 'semi' shall be stricken.

"3. Article III. of Conference Branch By-Laws, the words 'Statistical and' shall be inserted in the last clause of said article between the words 'general' and 'report.'

"4. The Constitution for Mission Bands shall be changed so as to harmonize with the Constitution of the W. M. S. Committee."

Miss Lena Lintner, of Holton, Kansas, was appointed General Organizer of the Woman's Missionary Society, to work under the direction of the Board.

Rev. F. W. Voegelien, missionary to Japan, was present at this quadrennial meeting and added wonderfully to the interest of the occasion.

Rev J. P. Hauch, missionary-elect to Japan. was also present and made stirring speeches.



MRS. H. C. SMITH,
Formerly a Faithful Office-Bearer and Member of the Board.

It was incidentally mentioned at this meeting that one sister in Canada walks three miles to the monthly missionary meeting, and also keeps up correspondence with the Board. Another travels six miles and still another twelve miles. If all our Evangelical women would take that stand our motto would be realized.

Sunday the Methodist brethren gave us the use of their new, roomy and beautiful church home for the day. Bishop Bowman preached a helpful and encouraging sermon. The Methodist pastor called attention to the fact, that the bishop who dedicated their church bears exactly the same name, and is a cousin of our Bishop Thomas Bowman.

The records of the society show that from 1892 to 1895 the amount of money raised was \$6,545.36; from 1895 to 1899, \$15,605.57. The amount for 1899 alone was \$4,374.06, an average of \$1.76 per member.

The officers elected for the next quadrennium were the same as in the past term, except that Mrs. L. H. Seager was elected Superintendent of Mission Bands.

The Board of Missions, 1899, provided a batch of good news for the Woman's Missionary Society. We quote from their proceedings:

"In conformity with a desire of the Woman's Missionary Society to take more active part in our missionary and charitable work in Japan, be it

"Resolved, That for this purpose the Sisters Susan M. Bauernfeind, of Nerstrand, Minnesota, and Anna M. Kammerer, of Superior, Nebraska, be sent to Japan to work there under the direction of our missionaries, provided that the condition of their health proves satisfactory, that they agree to the conditions laid down by the Board, and that the Woman's Missionary Society bear their expenses by special contribution." In fact, all our requests were granted. We now have two missionary sisters, whom we call our very own, to be supported by our money. The entire space of the "Missionary Messenger" is at our service, and we have the privilege of sending a delegate to

the Board of Missions. The last named privilege seems to be a step in advance of nearly all other Woman's Missionary Societies and the beauty of it is our brethren themselves proposed it. In all our Christian life, public and private, it pays wonderfully to patiently, persistently, humbly and above all, lovingly "press toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus." In His own good time God will make our work apparent.

At a session of the Executive Board, held a little later, the following items of business were transacted:

The Woman's Missionary Society was pledged for the financial support of our two missionary sisters.

Miss Adeline Thomas, of Cleveland, Ohio, was appointed to prepare programs for the Mission Band in German, and Miss Edna Sindlinger, of Naperville, Ill., in English.

Mrs. Gamertsfelder was appointed editor of the "Missionary Messenger."

It was decided to apply the proceeds of the Day of Prayer to the benevolent work of our two missionaries in Japan.

"Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger was appointed Superintendent of the Department of Proportionate and Systematic Giving."

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That we cheerfully accept the charge of supporting the two lady missionaries as our representatives in the field, and that we regard it as a great privilege to do so.

"Resolved, That we will do our utmost to prove ourselves worthy of the confidence and good-will shown toward us in these grants.

"Whereas, The late General Conference has honored our petition to make the "Missionary Messenger" the organ of the Woman's Missionary Society, by granting the request; therefore

"Resolved, That it is with heartfelt thanks that we accept the gift and that we pledge our best efforts to make

the "Missionary Messenger" a great blessing, not only to our Society, but to the whole Church.

"Resolved, further, That we rejoice that General Conference recommended that the Sunday-school weeklies be issued as missionary papers once each month.

"Whereas, The Parent Society has approved the appointment of a General Organizer and has also cheerfully granted our desire and request to take up some form of benevolent work in Japan, in the interest of our mission work in that country, as suggested by the Superintendent, Rev. F. W. Voegelien, and has provisionally appointed two sisters as missionaries, viz.: Susan M. Bauernfeind and Anna M. Kammerer, and

"Whereas, Also provision has been made in the constitution of the Missionary Society for our representation by delegate at the annual meeting of the Parent Board; therefore

"Resolved, That we hereby give expression to our ardent appreciation of these favors and that we accept them as a testimony of much confidence and good-will."

We quote from the "Missionary Messenger" in regard to our missionary sisters:

"The new missionaries appointed to go to Japan, Miss Susan Bauernfeind, of Nerstrand, Minnesota, and Miss Anna Kammerer, of Superior, Nebraska, are both graduates of the class of '99 of our own North-Western College at Naperville, Ill. By nature and education they are rarely fitted for their work. Both were members of the Student Volunteer Band of the College. Both manifested an earnest zeal for missions while at school, attending regularly the mission study classes and monthly missionary meetings of the Christian Associations. The former was, and still is, a member of the local auxiliary of the W. M. S. at Naperville, and sends her monthly contributions regularly. She was also the able and acceptable manager of the Mission Band of Naperville for six years.

“These young women feel confident that the Saviour’s words, ‘As the Father hath sent me so send I you,’ have been addressed to them. They go at His call, trusting in His name and also trusting the W. M. S. for their support. In that sense they are our missionaries.

“The Parent Board appointed them, but their support is to come from the W. M. S.

“The medical certificates of the young women have been presented to the Executive Committee of the Board and are satisfactory. The Woman’s Board has pledged their support and arrangements for their going are being completed.

“The expression ‘special contribution’ in the resolution adopted by the General Conference has not been understood by all the auxiliaries; hence a word of explanation. We do not understand by that phrase that the auxiliaries cannot appropriate their regular funds for the support of the two new missionaries. It does not mean that their support must be made up entirely by special means. All the contributions of the Woman’s Missionary Society are already extra offerings, and this would mean an extra extra offering. The societies can appropriate their funds as heretofore; and what is appropriated for Japan will go toward the support of the young women who are now our missionaries. We would urge the auxiliaries to guard against having all their funds flow into one channel. Remember the work in Europe, and do not forget the home mission conferences.

“Let us make an effort to so increase the contributions that all the departments of our missionary operations will receive more funds because of the new impetus given our work ”

These sisters at once began filling appointments in different parts of the Church at large, creating great interest and gathering funds for the cause of missions.

Mrs. E. M. Spreng. Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, Mrs. Bishop S. C. Breyfogel, Miss Susan Bauernfeind and Miss

Anna Kammerer represented our Society at the great Ecumenical Conference held in New York from April 21 to May 1, 1900. The topic was, "The Evangelization of the Nations."

General Organizer, Miss Lena Lintner, was prevented from carrying out many of her plans for the Woman's Missionary Society by the serious illness of her aged father.

ANNA M. KAMMERER.

Miss Anna M. Kammerer was born at Falls City, Nebr., December 15, 1873. Childhood's days were passed on her father's farm. Religiously inclined the church and Sunday school were very dear to her. She was especially gifted in memorizing Bible verses, thus laying a good foundation for the work in her far-away mission field.

Miss Kammerer attended the country schools of Nuckalls Co., Nebr., and the high school at Superior, Nebr., her present home, later teaching in the public schools of the same State, 1891-1895.

In the year 1895 Miss Kammerer entered North-Western College and graduated with the class of 1899, also taking elective studies in Union Biblical Institute.

During the year of 1895 Miss Kammerer consecrated her all to God and received the blessing of full salvation. With it came an intense desire to labor for lost souls. This desire was fostered by the influence of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions with which she became connected in 1896, there being a Band of that organization in the college.

The years of college life were filled with loving service for her King. Miss Kammerer felt clearly called to the foreign field and after meeting and overcoming many difficulties, the way to a missionary's life was opened to her.

She was appointed missionary to Japan, by the Board of Missions of the Evangelical Association, October, 1899, and sailed September 22, 1900.



MISS ANNA M. KAMMERER,
Missionary to Japan.

CHAPTER XVII.

FROM "STRENGTH TO STRENGTH."

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."—Deut. 33: 25.

Did God's children ever pin their faith to His promise and find it failing them? NEVER. He does not always reveal Himself as we expect, but in His own wise, loving way He leads us from strength to strength.

During the Summer of 1900 our missionary sisters organized three Conference Branches. The Dakota Branch was organized at Big Stone camp-meeting, June 18, 1900, by Miss Bauernfeind, with Mrs. R. W. Teichman as president. Within its first year this Branch averaged \$3.45 per member.

At the Summer School of Christian Culture, in the chapel of Schuylkill Seminary, July 7, 1900, Miss Bauernfeind organized the East Pennsylvania Conference Branch, with Mrs. S. C. Breyfogel as president.

At Lincoln, Nebr., July 27, 1900, Miss Kammerer organized the Platte River Conference Branch, with Mrs. A. E. Ash as president. This Branch is taking the lead, having the only auxiliary in the Church which has fully realized the motto of the Society—and is so aggressive as to have a Woman's Missionary Society on every field of labor in the Conference except one, and that is just a small new mission.

The Executive Board held its fifteenth annual meeting at Linwood Park, Ohio, August 9, 1900. Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. G. W. Sindlinger being unavoidably absent, Mrs. W. H. Hammer was appointed chairman pro tem.

Mrs. Spreng was appointed delegate to the Board of Missions.

Our Society being connected with the World's Committee of Woman's Missionary Societies, which was preparing a series of lessons for the uniform study of missionary topics, to begin September 1, 1901, it was therefore resolved, that the program committee select topics for eight months of 1901, and that the same committee investigate the plan and consider the advisability of adopting it, reporting to the Board as soon as possible.

August 10th the Board met at the home of Mrs. L. H. Seager, continuing the meeting there, with Mrs. E. M. Spreng in charge.

At this session it was resolved, that the salary of Sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer begin with the month of September, 1900, and that the Woman's Missionary Society pay all necessary expenses connected with their journey to Japan, including fifty dollars each for their outfit.

One hundred dollars was appropriated to each of the three European conferences and three hundred to the Parent Treasury.

Arrangements were made to send a letter to the pastors throughout the Church soliciting their co-operation in the observance of the Day of Prayer and in securing a free-will offering for our benevolent work in Japan.

The secretary was instructed to send a letter to the president of the joint missionary committee of the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. of North-Western College, expressing the gratitude of the Board for \$225 appropriated toward the support of our lady missionaries in Japan.

The amount of money contributed during the year just closed was 5,489.79. Average per member 1.74.

The Board thoroughly enjoyed planning for the work so recently fallen into their hands, work for which they had longed and prayed for many years.

Our own missionaries, as we delight to call them, sailed for Japan September 22, 1900.



MRS. H. BENNETT.

Historian.

We give a deeply interesting letter from Miss Bauernfeind, and an equally interesting extract from a private letter written by Miss Kammerer.

A LETTER FROM JAPAN.

Dear readers of the "Missionary Messenger":--New Year's Greetings from Far-off Japan:

We have now been in Japan for three weeks and are slowly becoming acquainted with the customs and habits of the people among whom we hope to labor. Yes, it is much longer since we said our last last "Farewells" to our loved ones, and occasionally when we try to comprehend where the time has gone since we left our homes, we feel as though we had been asleep for several months and awakened to find ourselves in the land of the "Sunrise Kingdom."

Our voyage was a very pleasant one, seasoned with just enough rough sailing to remind one very forcibly of a person's life: for is it not true that when we have good health, and everything else seems to be in our favor, we wish for a LONG LIFE, but as soon as things take a turn, we begin to wish that our journey were ended? So it is when out on the deep blue sea.

While we had a voyage of nearly three weeks there was no time for loneliness. Through the thoughtfulness of our dear President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, we received letters from some member of the W. M. S. every day, and we take this opportunity of expressing our heartiest thanks, first to Mrs. Spreng for the plan, and second to all who wrote, assuring them that the letters came to us like sweet messengers of peace and were greatly appreciated.

We have not been in Japan long enough to express our opinion of the needs, etc., but we must not fail to tell of the spirit existing among our church-members here. We were deeply impressed with the fact that the native Christians have just been longing for our coming. To show this

appreciation they tendered a reception to us in our own home on Wednesday, the 17th of October, just one week after we had placed our feet upon Japanese soil. At this reception about forty persons were present. The meeting began at two o'clock. Upon our arrival we found men and women seated according to Japanese fashion, but several chairs had been loaned and brought to the house, so that we were not required to try sitting upon the floor this time. One of our native pastors had charge of the meeting, and after a few remarks by him, the singing of a song by all present, we were led in prayer by one of our Bible women after which another one of these dear sisters read the Scripture lesson. Two short addresses of welcome to us then followed, one in English, welcoming us in general, and one by a young lady in Japanese welcoming us in the name of the women. Yes, we responded through our interpretrass, and felt very thankful that we had been permitted to come to labor among a people who are anxious for our service. All were then served with Japanese delicacies, chop-sticks being used as the means of conveying the food to the mouth. We begged to be excused for this once, and there seemed to be no objection.

I have tried to give an account of the reception in order to show to you that we have not come among strangers, but among brothers and sisters in Christ.

Last Sunday we accompanied Bro. Voegelien to the Ushigoma church where he had quarterly meeting. Sunday-school had just opened when we entered, and I am unable to tell you of the impressions the sixty or more little ones—God's little ones, made upon me as I sat and looked into their not overly clean faces. Yes, a strong desire arose within me to tell them the sweet story of Jesus who said: "Let the little ones come unto me." But I must abide God's time. He has brought me to this people and I know will bless my feeble efforts so that in His own time I shall be able to tell the glad story to these poor souls in their own tongue. By trusting in Him, and having the

knowledge that many in the home land are praying for our work we go forth in His Name doing whatsoever our hands find to do.

Susan M. Bauernfeind,
Asakusa-Ku, No. 72, Kita Misuji Machi, Tokio, Japan.

This from Miss Kammerer :

"We are finally really 'settled' in our house with paper doors and windows, and have made it appear quite home-like with our American furniture. We are happy in the work, learning to speak Japanese, and speaking through our interpreter, reading the Bible, and doing such other things as opportunity affords. Have just returned from a meeting for women. Last Sunday I had my first experience in teaching a class of heathen students in Sunday-school. They can understand English and have asked me to teach them the Bible each Sunday. Miss Bauernfeind has a similar class. We can do this while we are learning their language and preparing for more definite work. How glad we are to be here, where we have been longing to be for years—in a heathen land—with an opportunity of telling the glad news of salvation to those who live without hope. It is true we miss friends and home and Christian influences, but we are glad for an opportunity of serving the Master here. We live about four miles from our other missionaries, in a part of Tokyo where there are no other workers. Oh, how much we see to be done."

We quote the following from the March, 1901, "Missionary Messenger." "Our American tongues had scarcely learned to twist themselves enough to pronounce the address of the Sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer when they send us another one even worse than the first. They have been obliged to change her place of residence. Here is the address, pronounce it if you can. 'Kojimachi-ku, Iidamachi Shi Chome, 22 Banchi, Tokyo, Japan!'"

Some one remarked the other day that this would make a good "college yell." President Mrs. E. M. Spreng pronounces it like a native.

The fourth conference of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions was held in New York, January 1901. Our Society was represented by Miss Leah C. Reuber, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

We are glad to say at this date (December, 1901) that our missionary sisters, having been in Japan only a little over a year, have done excellent work. During their first and second quarter they held twenty-seven interesting womens' meetings with an average attendance of eight. There were among them honest inquirers after the light and some were converted. Most of them came a long distance. They also held twenty-eight Bible meetings for young women, mostly in their own home. Japanese people being especially attached to their homes, a larger attendance is reached by holding the meetings in a native home. This applies more especially to women's meetings and Sunday-schools.

Both Christian and non-believers attend their English classes, some of them seeking the truth. They have three Sunday-schools, one each at Shitaya, Kintsu kecho and Ushigome. "Our girls" superintend two of them. Average attendance forty-one. They give many English lessons and a number in German. These classes afford good opportunities to become better acquainted with the Japanese. They give five mornings in the week to the study of the Japanese language and are making good progress in it. Many of their families being extremely poor, they have found it necessary to help them financially. One day Miss Kammerer had an appointment out in the country; it was raining heavily, and in Japan one can truly say, "It never rains but it pours." It did not seem probable that any one would venture out to hear the truth that day, but Sister Kammerer went just the same and was very thankful that she did, for a number of people came seven miles in that downpour to hear her speak of her Master.

Thus these dear sisters are patiently, faithfully, heroically gathering sheaves in the great harvest field. And

every time the dear sisters of the Woman's Missionary Society attend their monthly meetings they are helping along the glorious work. While we in America are sweeping, dusting, washing dishes and caring for the dear ones at home, these our representatives are rejoicing right along in conversions from idolatry to the blessed Gospel of Christ our Master. Does it not pay?

The Executive Board of the Woman's Missionary Society held its sixteenth annual meeting at the home of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, Cleveland, Ohio, August 27, 1901, with every member present.

The corresponding secretary reported that the work of the year had been pleasant on account of the hearty response from Branches and auxiliaries and that there had been improvement of 100 per cent in filling blanks and in promptness.

The Superintendent of Mission Bands reported the work prospering. Twelve Bands were organized during the year.

The Cradle-Roll had increased in interest and in membership. The outlook in general regarding work among the children was considered very good.

The report of the Department of Proportionate and Systematic Giving was quite encouraging.

The corresponding secretary was instructed to secure a complete list of those who were life and honorary members before the re-organization of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. W. H. Hammer were appointed to act jointly with the General Book Committee on the publication of the history of the Woman's Missionary Society, which had been ordered prepared.

The lily of the valley was selected as the Society flower.

Reports from our "mission sisters" were very gratifying to the Board. The reports covered the first and second quarters of 1901. It was decided to request the

sisters to continue sending quarterly reports, using the following form:

- I. Evangelistic Work.
 - (a) Women's meetings:
 - Number held.....
 - Average attendance.....
 - (b) Bible meeting for young women:
 - Number held.....
 - Average attendance.....
 - (c) English Bible classes:
 - Number held.....
 - Average attendance.....
 - (d) Sunday-school work:
 - Number of schools.....
 - Average attendance.....
- II. Educational Work.
 - (a) English classes:
 - Number held.....
 - Average attendance.....
- III. Benevolent Work.
 - (a) Number of calls made.....
 - (b) Number of persons helped.....
 - (c) Amount expended.....
- VI. General Remarks.....

 From....., 19.., to....., 19..
 (Signed).....

An appropriation of fifty dollars was placed at the disposal of Sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer for benevolent purposes in connection with their work in Japan.

As the Woman's Missionary Society has pledged itself to the support of these missionaries it was deemed wise to ask the treasurer of the Parent Society for an itemized account of their expenses.

It was resolved to take up the United Study of Missions for six months, the Board suggesting topics for the remaining six months.

Mrs. E. M. Spreng was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

An application was received from Miss Lora C. Minch, of Hooppole, Ill., for work in the foreign field. The Board having no power to appoint, her application was referred to the Parent Missionary Society, the Woman's Board assuring Sister Minch of their appreciation and prayerful interest in her preparation for her chosen work.

The Board at this session appropriated \$500 for the support of the missionary sisters, 100 to each of the European conferences and 200 to the Parent Treasury.

As it is expected that where there is a Branch organization the extension of the work will be cared for under that management, it was deemed best to appoint organizers only when there is no Branch organization, that organizers be appointed annually and shall make annual reports to the Executive Board.

It has been a bright but hitherto unrealized dream of our Executive Board to have a permanent building in Japan to carry on missionary operations. It was therefore decided to submit the case at once to the General Board of Missions, and if the plan be approved, immediately to proceed to formulate a plan to create a building fund, and that said plan be submitted to the Board of Missions.

The grand total contributions for the fiscal year just closed was \$5,708.15. Average per member \$1.96.

Directly after the Board meeting Mrs. E. M. Spreng received a letter from Rev. F. W. Voegelein, Superintendent of our missions in Japan, saying it is very desirable that our missionary sisters have a foreign built house for their use in Japan. Japanese houses are not well adapted to foreigners, and, as Bro. Voegelein states, it would be a great advantage to have a building of our own for these sisters, "a permanent centre from which they could reach out in different directions." Brother Voegelein also wrote to the Board of Missions and laid the case before them with the understanding that, provided their permission is given, the Woman's Missionary Society raise the money for the same by extra offerings.

At the session of the Board of Missions held in Buffalo, October, 1901, the matter was referred to a joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Missions and the Executive Board of the Woman's Missionary Society "with power to act according to their judgment." The following resolution, presented by Mrs. E. M. Spreng, was adopted:

"Whereas, There is a field for evangelistic work open to the Sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer in the so-called country districts in the vicinity of Tokyo at such points where our Church is at work; and

Whereas, Some of our native pastors are urgently inviting our sisters to come and hold women's meetings at their respective appointments, and

Whereas, Such efforts have proved very successful and doubtless will be fruitful of much good; therefore,

Resolved, That we express our approval of such work as time and opportunity may allow, and that we, the Woman's Missionary Society, would gladly provide the necessary funds for traveling expenses connected therewith, if such expense does not exceed the amount in the treasury which can be applied.

It was therefore resolved, That we recommend to the Board to approve this project, with the understanding that such work be done and carried on under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Japan Conference.

Further resolved, That we require the treasurer of the Japan Mission to furnish the W. M. S. an itemized quarterly report of all the expenses of the Sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer.

6. Resolved, That the reports of our Sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer shall be published in our Church papers.

7. Whenever it may be necessary to engage a special interpreter for our sisters, the Superintendent shall be empowered to do so."

All our work received very favorable consideration at the hands of the Board of Missions.

The Woman's Missionary Society was granted the privilege of nominating women to be sent to foreign fields by the Board of Missions.

November 26, 1901, the "joint committee" met in Cleveland to decide the building question referred to them. It was a significant meeting, being the first of its kind in the history of our Society. It was also a very harmonious, interesting and altogether profitable one, and forms a fitting climax for our little book.

Our Executive Board was represented by all the members residing in the city, except Mrs. C. A. Thomas, who was ill, namely: Mrs. E. M. Spreng, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. L. H. Seager and Mrs. H. Mattill.

Bishop Horn promptly offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That we authorize the Woman's Missionary Society and the Missionary Committee in Japan to lease sufficient ground to serve the purpose of the work of the Sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer, and thereupon to erect a dwelling and chapel for said sisters and their work, provided the Woman's Missionary Society furnish the funds, not to exceed \$3,000, and that the treasurer of the Missionary Society shall advance the necessary funds until the money is raised through the Woman's Society by special gifts."

The following resolution offered by Brother S. P. Spreng, was also adopted:

"Further Resolved, That we suggest to the committee in Japan that in securing a site for the proposed dwelling and meeting house for our missionary sisters in Japan ample provision be made, if possible, for future emergencies, and even larger plans than can be immediately carried out."

Mrs. Spreng offered a resolution, which was adopted, to the effect that in order to raise the necessary building fund three thousand shares of one dollar each be issued and offered to the members of the Woman's Missionary Society and other interested parties, and that these pledges

made for shares shall be paid within one year from date of pledge.

So we have a very important and definite work before us, into which our intrepid president is putting all her powers of body, mind and soul. Under the blessing of God, with the hearty co-operation of all our sisters, success must crown the work.

April, 1902, during the session of the Des Moines Conference, the Des Moines Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society was organized, Miss Omo S. Yaggy, President.

Out under the trees at Beulah Park, Howell, Mich., August 9, 1902, after preliminary exercises conducted by President Mrs. E. M. Spreng, twelve delegates cast their ballots for Branch officers into a hat borrowed from an obliging preacher, and our youngest Branch, the Michigan Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society was organized, Mrs. P. H. Pohley, President.

We now have 11 Branches, about 140 auxiliaries, with a membership of over 3,000. The total amount raised by extra free-will offerings and contributed to the various missionary institutions of the Church since the founding of the Society is over \$50,000.

The Mission Bands number 75, with 2,674 members.

The Cradle Roll has 293 members.

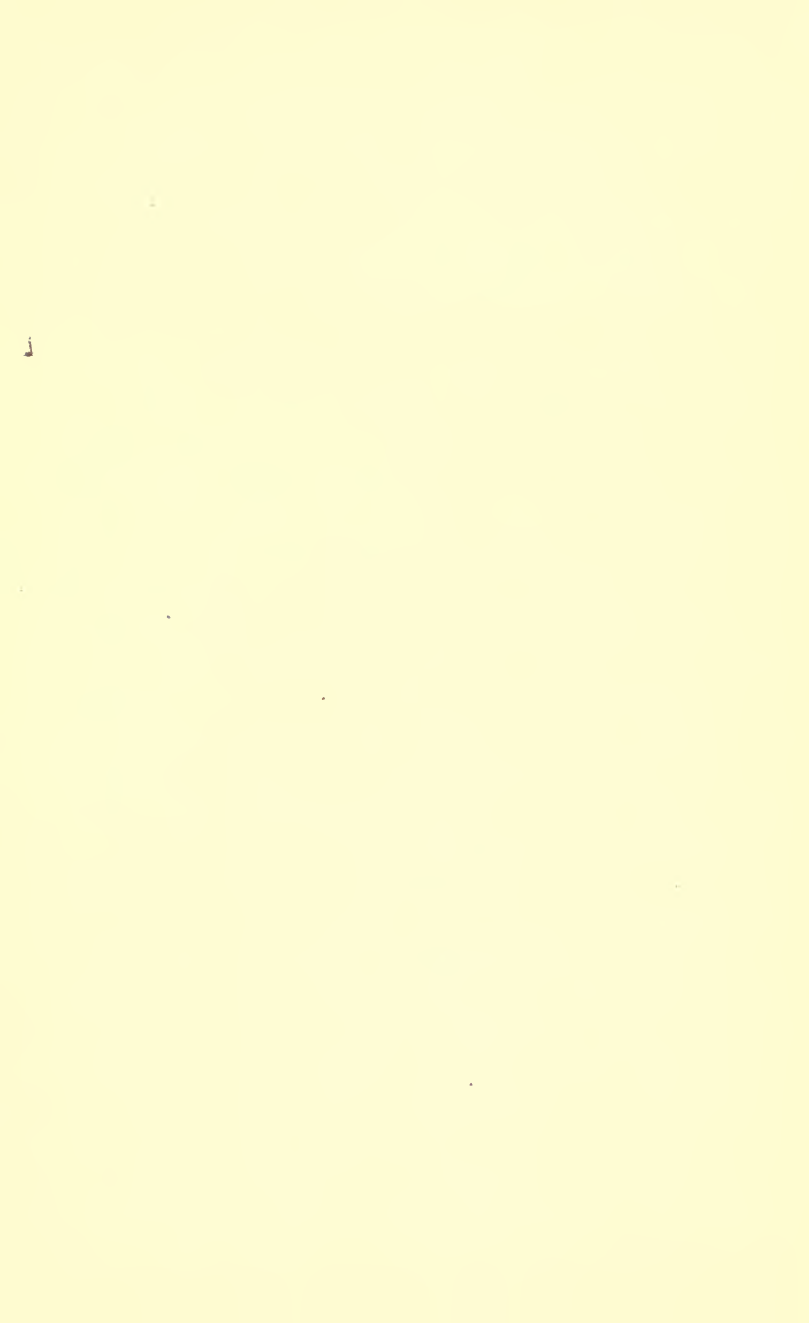
"And now our story is done," and as we falteringly close this last chapter it is like saying good-bye to a very, very dear friend. The work has been extremely fascinating.

God alone knows to what extent the population of the "far-away home of the soul" has been and will be increased by the brave efforts of our Woman's Missionary Society. The record is safe with Him.

We are glad to know that though the pages of this little book are numbered, the glorious work goes on from "strength to strength." Glory to His name!

"He guided by paths that we could not see,
By ways that we had not known,
The crooked was straight, and the rough made plain
As we followed the Lord alone.
We praise Him still for the pleasant psalms;
And the water-springs by the way,
For the glowing pillar of flame by night,
And the sheltering cloud by day."

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